

This is the common wood ant, which extends from New England to Texas. It is quite variable in size. Our measurements are from the largest specimens.

5. *Formica gnava*, n. sp.

*Female*. Length 0.35 inch.—Black or brownish-black, margins of the segments of the abdomen, and also the legs, pale yellow or hyaline; head small, triangular, depressed and flattened above; eyes very large, prominent, elliptical, lateral, and behind the middle of the head; ocelli 3, prominent and at top of the occiput; clypeus raised and oval; prothorax large, wider than head, rounded above, subcompressed at the sides, its posterior part widest; mesothorax small, raised as high as the prothorax, rounded above, and with a slight depression between it and the metathorax, which is short, and subtruncate; scale wedge-shaped, vertical; abdomen large, broad ovate; wings extending beyond the abdomen, with one marginal, two submarginal, and one discoidal cells. Otherwise like the worker.

*Male*. Length 0.29 inch.—Thorax but little wider than the head; abdomen ovate, short. Otherwise like the female.

*Worker*. Length 0.18 inch.—Smooth throughout; head, thorax, and legs yellowish-red; abdomen black, or piceous; when first caught or seen in their cells, the whole seems to be of a bronze color; head ovate, rounded above, below and behind, with a slight depression at the base of the clypeus, which is subcarinated; antennæ long, filiform and slightly enlarged towards their apical joints; mandibles large, short, strangulated in the middle, then curved inwards, and widened, 7-toothed; eyes large, subelliptical, lateral, and a little behind the middle of the head, near the upper surface; prothorax little more than half the width of the head, rounded above and enlarged anteriorly; mesothorax depressed, inclined back, with a slight strangulation between it and metathorax; metathorax large, widest in the middle; scale large, wedge-shaped, and slightly inclined forwards; abdomen ovate; legs long.

*Hab.*—Central Texas; Washington, D. C.; Naples, New York; Connecticut, (Norton).

Very active and brave; bites sharply, and emits a strong odor of formic acid. Has cells in the ground, sometimes to the depth of two or more feet, forming small mounds with the excavated earth. Is solitary in foraging, scattered here and there over the surface of the ground.