

is a member of a small complex of western North American species characterized by sparsely punctate five-toothed mandibles and the flattened, shiny, and sparsely punctate clypeus of the major workers and the females. In the major workers also, the entire frontal and malar areas of the head tend to be smooth and shiny, rather than tessellate and somewhat dull as in other species of *Myrmentoma*.

From *C. essigi* this species may be separated by the presence of a distinct metanotal groove (Fig. 28). The basal face of the propodeum thus appears to be convex in profile, rather than flat as in *C. essigi*. Also similar is *C. bakeri*, originally described as a subspecies of *C. hyatti*, but in that species the mesonotum, in profile, is distinctly convex (rather than flat) and the pronotum has 8 or more long erect hairs, at least in the major.

All available records indicate that *C. hyatti* nests in wood. Colonies have been found in several species of oaks, as well as in manzanita, chemise, sagebrush stems and roots, and in *Yucca* stalks.

*Camponotus (Myrmentoma) nearcticus* Emery

Figures 7, 16, 25

*Camponotus marginatus* var. *nearcticus* Emery, 1893:675; W F.

*Camponotus marginatus* var. *minutus* Emery, 1893:676; W F M.

*Camponotus fallax* var. *tanquaryi* Wheeler, 1910:226; W F M.

*Camponotus (Myrmentoma) nearcticus*: Creighton, 1950:385, 388-389 (in part). Wheeler and Wheeler, 1963:172, 173-174 (in part).

The above synonymy omits many references to *C. nearcticus* because many appear to be based on erroneous identifications. Almost every uniformly dark North American *Myrmentoma* (but not excluding some bicolored species) has been misidentified as *C. nearcticus* at least once. This species has never been adequately characterized. Creighton (1950) included as a synonym *C. marginatus decipiens*, evidently unaware that this was conspecific with his interpretation of *C. rasilis*. Also placed in the synonymy was *C. fallax rasilis* var. *pavidus*; this, too, I believe to be a distinct species.

With the removal to these two as separate species, *C. nearcticus* becomes more homogeneous. Although typically a dark brown or blackish species, some samples of *C. nearcticus* may have the head and mesosoma partially ferruginous (e. g., the types of the var. *tanquaryi*). A few samples from Mississippi have the head, mesosoma, and appendages bright reddish and might be confused with *C. decipiens*. But, the broad clypeus, with numerous erect hairs, and the straight occipital margin are as in *C. nearcticus*.