

**Diagnosis of the genus *Acanthostichus*.****Description.**

Worker: Clypeus with broadly concave medial anterior border, lateral teeth present in many species; frontal carinae usually not covering insertions of antennae; scapes short, antenna with 12 segments; maxillary palps 2 segmented, labial palps 3 segmented; smooth, glossy and shining throughout (unless otherwise mentioned), except for the dorsum of petiole and sides of mesosoma and petiole, which are usually at least lightly sculptured; few erect, simple hairs scattered over most of body surface; mandible without teeth (in most species), except for the apical angle or tooth; malar groove present, extending from base of mandible posteriorly to area below eye; eye usually very small (relatively large in *A. texanus*), but present, consisting of a single (or few) ommatidium; metatibial glands present; claws simple; postpetiole (third abdominal segment) separated from remainder of gaster; pygidium with numerous large, upwardly directed teeth (Fig. 2); small to moderate sized ants, often polymorphic in size. Almost invariably reddish-brown to dark brown.

Female: Only known from four species (*A. emmae*, *A. laticornis*, *A. quadratus*, and *A. texanus*). That of *A. texanus* is very similar to worker in size and form; ocelli well developed; winged. The unknown worker of *A. emmae* is probably similar to the female. The females of the other two species (*A. quadratus* and *A. laticornis*) are subdichthadiiform (possess ocelli, have large eyes, have full complement of flight sclerites, see Bolton 1990b), much larger than worker; wingless; petiole much wider than long; covered with long, flexuous hairs. The malar groove (Fig. 53) is present in three of these species (*A. emmae*, *A. texanus* and *A. laticornis*), but absent in the fourth (*A. quadratus* - Fig. 50). The pygidium toothed in *A. emmae* and *A. texanus* (Fig. 53), but not in *A. laticornis* and *A. quadratus* (Fig. 50). Mandibles with or without teeth. A key is not provided as females of few species are known and few would be collected without the presence of workers.

Male: The males of most species are very similar and difficult to distinguish. Therefore, descriptions are limited to characteristics which can be used to separate species. I am providing a key which may be of little use for identifying some species. Size variable within a species, with no constant size differences between species. The males of many species are unknown. The following characteristics fit most species. HL 0.73 - 1.16, HW 0.80 - 1.18, SL 0.18 - 0.38, SW 0.10 - 0.18, EL 0.39 - 0.58, WL 1.60 - 2.45, PW 0.33 - 0.68, PL 0.43 - 0.48, SI 24 - 35, CI 99 - 115, PI 70 - 131. Mandible lightly punctate, usually without teeth on