

**Description.**

Worker: HL 0.74 - 0.96, HW 0.66 - 0.76, SL 0.31 - 0.38, WL 1.19 - 1.24, PW 0.35 - 0.40, PL 0.36 - 0.43, SI 39 - 42, CI 79 - 90, PI 100 - 106. Mandible with only apical tooth developed; anterior medial border of clypeus concave, lateral clypeal teeth poorly developed; frontal carinae poorly developed, closely placed; head elongate, occipital border concave; petiole quadrate, anterior border strongly concave (Fig. 19), subpetiolar process a broadly rounded lobe (Fig. 20); femur flattened and incrassate (Fig. 43). Surface of body smooth and glossy (including scapes, dorsum of mesosoma and dorsum of petiole).

**Discussion.** The workers of this species can be distinguished from others in that the femur is very broad, the petiole is subquadrate, usually with a strongly concave anterior face. It can be differentiated from *A. femoralis* and *A. sanchezorum* in that the propodeal spiracle is positioned at the midline, not above midline as in the other two species. It is similar to *A. kirbyi* (and other related species, see discussion of *A. kirbyi*), from which it can be distinguished as the dorsum of the petiole is often punctate, with elongate depressions, the anterior face is not strongly thickened, the lateral clypeal teeth are poorly developed and the femur is not incrassate in *A. kirbyi*. The male can usually be distinguished from other species as it has an elongate petiole, is small and is without bluish reflections (see key).

**Distribution.** Guiana, Cayenne (type locality), Brazil, Argentina (Map 3).

**Type Series.** *Acanthostichus brevicornis*, one worker holotype (MCSN) [seen] Calen [?] Jelski; Typus; *Acanthostichus parallelus* [? word marked out] *brevicornis* Em; *Typhlomymex serratula* [label obviously incorrect]; *A. ramosmexiae*, syntypes including 16 workers and 3 males (MACN) [seen], Rosario, J. Hubrick.

**Material examined.** ARGENTINA: El Chaco, 12-vi-1948, R. Peña (1 male IMLA). BRAZIL: Amazonas, Manaus, RS2303, 12-viii-93, 09-ix-93, AB Casimiro (3 workers CPCB), Mato Grosso, Independencia, W. Mann (1 worker USNM), Mato Grosso, 1-iii-1968, A. Mathews (9 workers USNM), Araçuari, 8-xi-1972, R. Araujo (3 workers MZSP); 16 k S B. H. [?, location unknown, not plotted on Map 3], 13-ii-1977, R. Araujo, in vegetation (1 worker MZSP); Parahyba [=Paraíba], Independencia, Mann & Heath (2 workers MCZC); São Paulo, Teod. Sampaio, viii-1973, F. Oliveira, # 10302 (2 males MZSP). GUIANA: Cayenne, type locality.

**Biology.** Found under cow manure together with termites (Bruch, 1924) and are termite predators (Bruch, 1925). Mann (1916) found a small colony under a deeply imbedded stone.