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A NEW FORM OF MYRMECINA

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The genus *Myrmecina* Curtis 1829 is known from Europe, where the two species *graminicola* Latreille and *sicula* Ern. André occur. From the Indomalayan region a large number of species have been recorded (Cf. Emery, 1923, Gen. Ins.); *Myrmecina* seems to be absent from South America and Africa. In North America the genus is represented by two subspecies and one variety of the European *M. graminicola*, namely subspecies *texana*, subspecies *americana* and its variety *brevispinosa*. The new form described here resembles *americana* but is also close to the species type from the old world.

Myrmecina graminicola Curtis subsp. *quadrispina* subsp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2)

Length 2.5 mm. Color nearly black; mandibles, antennæ, and legs reddish yellow. Front of head brownish red.

Head a little longer than broad, deeply concave behind, sides convex. Eyes small, a little in front of the sides of the head. Mandibles with numerous blunt teeth, the basal teeth larger; when closed there is an open triangle between the mandibles and the anterior edge of the clypeus. Center part of the clypeus elevated, the elevated part with three small teeth in front. Antennal scapes strongly curved, thickened in the upper part, reaching the posterior corners of the head. Antennæ 12-jointed, club 3-jointed, of the usual shape in this genus. Head above with coarse longitudinal striæ, diverging behind, becoming reticulate, the interspaces punctate. Frontal area very distinct, not striated, feebly punctate.

Thorax in front nearly as broad as the head, with sharp humeral angles. Thorax strongly narrowed behind, sharply margined on the sides, very feebly impressed between pro- and mesonotum in the holotype, the impression may be absent in other specimens. Impression between meso- and epinotum narrow but distinct. Epinotum with four spines; the first pair of spines blunt and straight, the second pair, which is the true pair of epinotal spines, longer than the distance apart at the base, slender, strongly upward curved. Strongly longitudinally rugose, some of the rugæ bifurcating on the prothorax; on the sides of the thorax, near the margins, somewhat vermiculate. Both, interspaces and summits of the rugæ finely punctate. There are four large rugæ between the anterior spines. The latter connected by a crest in front of

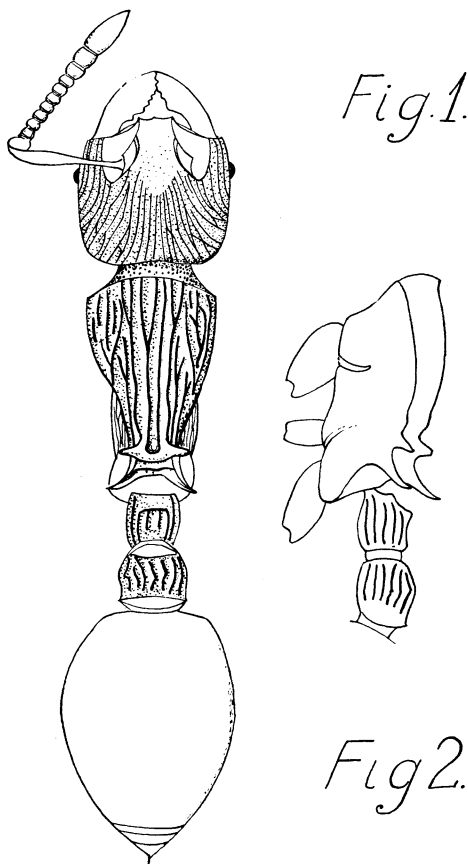


FIG. 1. *Myrmecina graminicola* ss *quadrispina*, dorsal view.

FIG. 2. Thorax and pedicel of same in profile.

which there is a hollow space. Posterior pair of spines connected by a transverse crest in front of which there is a single transverse ruga. Sides of thorax irregularly longitudinally rugose.

Petiole from above nearly square, with slightly concave anterior border and convex sides. Postpetiole wider than the petiole, broader than long, sessile. Both nodes coarsely and irregularly rugose punctate.

Gaster truncated in front, the first segment taking up most of the dorsal surface of the abdomen.

Pilosity very sparse, a little more abundant on the shiny gaster. Pubescence absent.

This ant was described from a single specimen collected on the southern slope of Blue Hills, Boston. Holotype No. 1 in my private collection. Other specimens of this ant were found near the water tower of Roslindale, Massachusetts, about three miles from the type locality.

The new ant differs from its nearest relative *M. graminicola* subsp. *americana* Emery by the following characters: the sculpture on head and thorax is much coarser in *quadrispina*, the epinotum is armed with four spines (two spines and two lateral tubercles in *americana*), the epinotal spines are strongly curved and much longer, the color is very much darker and the pilosity very scant (more abundant in *americana*). It differs from the European type by the absence of a median keel on the clypeus, though it has a median anterior tooth like *graminicola*.

The new species can be placed easily by means of the appended key.

KEY TO THE WORKERS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FORMS OF MYRMECINA

1. Clypeus with a median keel; length about 2.5 mm.; clypeal teeth much blunter than in the American forms. Europa and Northern Asia as far as Japan *graminicola* Emery 1895.
Clypeal keel absent; the median part of the clypeus is usually smooth 2.
2. First gastric segment shagreened or granulated; length 2-2.9 mm.; epinotal spines nearly as long in *americana*, but their tips blunt and turned upward at the end. Texas *texana* Wheeler 1908.
First gastric segment smooth and shiny, or sublucid 3.
3. Epinotal spines longer than broad at their bases, turned upward in the apical half; sculpture of thorax coarsely rugulose, mesonotum behind with two large blunt spines. Massachusetts.
subsp. *quadrispina* subsp. nov.
Epinotal spines straight; mesepinotal armature consisting of blunt tubercles or corners at best; sculpture on thorax much finer and more regular; epinotal spines longer than broad at their bases; brownish yellow. Indian Garden, Arizona; Texas *americana* Emery 1895.
Epinotal spines straight and not longer than their distance apart at the base; brownish yellow var. *brevispinosa* Emery 1895.