

[Reprinted from *PSYCHE*, Vol. XXIII, No. 3]

(*Veromessor lobognathus* Andrews
original description)

A NEW ANT OF THE GENUS MESSOR FROM COLORADO.

BY HAZEL ANDREWS,
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

A few years ago Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell collected four workers of this ant at Glenwood Springs, Colo., not noticing at the time that they were anything unusual. Recently, while working on the genera *Messor*, *Aphænogaster*, and *Pogonomyrmex*, we found these specimens mixed with the series of *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* which they superficially resemble. It was evident that they could not belong to *Pogonomyrmex*, on account of the impressed dorsal suture and other characters, and on looking up the literature we failed to find any similar species described. Dr. W. M. Wheeler, who kindly examined a specimen confirms the species as new, and considers that it must be referred to *Messor* rather than *Aphænogaster*. He further notes that it presents some characters suggesting that it may, in a certain sense, be regarded as intermediate between *Messor* and *Pogonomyrmex*.

WILLIAM L. BROWN

Messor lobognathus sp. nov.

Worker: Length, about 6 mm. Head quadrate, about as wide as long, excluding mandibles. Posterior corners of head rounded, vertex almost straight, sides almost straight and parallel. Surface of head with sparse hairs, rugose, with rugæ posteriorly divergent; interrugal spaces distinctly reticulate. Clypeus very short with rugose surface, ridges irregular; shallowly emarginate anteriorly. Mandibles stout and convex, peculiarly lobed apically, with two large apical teeth and five to seven rudimentary teeth; surface coarsely striated. Eyes moderate, at sides of head, about half way between clypeus and vertex. Antennæ 12-jointed, hairy; scape compressed and dilated at base, hardly extending beyond corners of head; last four joints of funiculus incrassate, but hardly form-

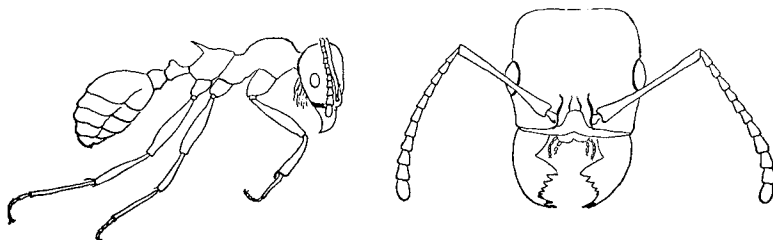


Fig. 1. *Messor lobognathus* sp. nov. Lateral view and anterior view of head.

ing a distinct club. First joint longer than second, but not twice as long. Pronounced beard of recurved hairs, as in *Pogonomyrmex*. Thorax slender, irregularly rugose, sparsely clothed dorsally with long, glistening, light yellow hairs. Pro- and meso-notum convex. Thoracic dorsum deeply impressed at mesoepinotal suture; mesoepinotal suture distinct. Spines of epinotum acute, much longer than broad at base; divergent; striations radiating from the base; infraspinal cavity smooth. Petiole punctate with a few hairs; longer than wide; ventral surface straight in profile; a high posteriorly placed superior node; apex broader than base; posterior slope abrupt; anterior slope long and gentle. Postpetiole narrow at base, a little longer than wide when seen in profile; superiorly convex and sides rounded. Thus the postpetiole is globose. Gaster shining, scarcely larger than head, with delicate microscopic reticulate sculpture on apical part of segments. Sting vestigial. Legs quite long; posterior tibial spurs spinulose.

Bright rufo-fulvous; tip of gaster light brown; clypeus, funiculus, clypeus and borders of mandibles brown.

Glenwood Springs, Colo., altitude 5,750 feet (Cockerell).

Superficially the ant resembles *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* Cresson, but, as noted by Dr. Wheeler, the impressed thorax, shape of petiole, vestigial sting and non-pectinated posterior tibial spurs put it in the genus *Messor*. From the shape of the mandibles the ant evidently stores seeds. This ant differs from the other species of *Messor* in the fulvous red color and in having the peculiar apical lobe on the mandibles. The antennal scapes are more dilated at the base than in other species.