

insects for honeydew, and also feed on both live and dead insects and the juices of fruits. They feed on a wide variety of household foods. . . . They are especially fond of sweets. . . . They may invade houses and stores from outdoors, but also nest within the structures of buildings. They are not capable of causing any appreciable damage to woodwork or masonry, . . . but they can be very annoying to housekeepers and store owners" (Smith, 1965:77).

The United States species of *Paratrechina* were revised by J.C. Trager (1984).

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *PARATRECHINA*

- 1a. Erect hairs on scape sparse and almost entirely confined to a single row on front of scape . . . . . undescribed species?
- b. Erect hairs on scape abundant, occurring on sides as well as front of scape, absent only from rear surface . . . . 2
- 2a. Yellow . . . . . *hystrix*
- b. Reddish black . . . . . *vididula*

#### *Paratrechina vividula* (Nylander)

**WORKER.** Small. Head brown, thorax dark yellowish brown, gaster dark brown. Strongly shining.

**RANGE.** Introduced into Florida, Mississippi, and southern Nevada, and in greenhouses in other states.

**NEVADA NOTES AND LOCALITIES.** Map 42. We have 16 collections from two localities; these collections were all taken in association with man-made structures. Sexual forms were taken as early as 22 April and as late as 15 September. *Clark Co.*: Las Vegas, 2,000 ft. (15 collections); *Overton*, 1,400 ft.

#### *Paratrechina hystrix* Trager

**WORKER.** Small. Concolorous yellow. Strongly shining.

**RANGE.** Deserts of southern California and southern Nevada.

**NEVADA NOTES AND LOCALITIES.** Map 42. We have 2 records, each based on a single stray specimen. *Lincoln Co.*: 2 mi. S Caliente, Kershaw Canyon, 5,000 ft. *Washoe Co.*: 21N-19E-33.

#### *Paratrechina* undescribed species?

**WORKER.** Small. Head and gaster reddish brown, thorax brownish yellow varying to concolorous reddish brown. Strongly shining.

**RANGE.** Southern Nevada and western Arizona.

**NEVADA NOTES AND LOCALITY.** Map 42. We have 1 record from a single locality. *Clark Co.*: 4 mi. S Mesquite, Virgin Mts. 4,000 ft.

#### Genus *Prenolepis* Mayr

"The habits of *imparis* are interesting if not very spectacular. The colonies are small . . . and the nests are obscure. They are often . . . in damp soil and in shady positions . . . . The

workers of *imparis* feed upon various sorts of sugary liquids derived directly from plant sources or from aphids [and upon] . . . the juices of dead earthworms . . . . Their most interesting characteristic is a surprising tolerance for low temperatures. Workers of *imparis* have been observed feeding outside the nest when the temperature was only a few degrees above freezing" (Creighton, 1950:412-413).

The one North American species of *Prenolepis* occurs sporadically in southern Canada, south to Georgia and west to Oregon and California; central Mexico.

#### *Prenolepis imparis* (Say)

W.M. Wheeler (1930:23) reported this ant (as "var. *californica*") from Ormsby County (no locality given). It has never been taken in Nevada since then. Not mapped.

#### Genus *Lasius* Fabricius

In North America north of latitude 35°N the members of this genus are among the commonest ants. But, the genus is also one of the most monotonous: the colors are drab, there is nothing remarkable about the nests, and the habits are undistinguished.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *LASIUS*

(Adapted from Wilson, 1955)

- 1a. Eye large, its length 0.2 times head width or more . . 2
- b. Eye small, its length less than 0.2 times head width . . . . . 6
- 2a. With 1 or more offset teeth at basal angle of masticatory border of mandible (in most colony members) . . . . . *pallitarsis*
- b. Basal tooth aligned with other teeth on masticatory border of mandible . . . . . 3
- 3a. Eye length usually less (never more) than 0.25 times head width; scape without erect hairs; usually brownish yellow . . . . . *sitiens*
- b. Eye length more than 0.25 times head width; sometimes yellowish brown, but then the scape with erect hairs . . . . . 4
- 4a. In one or both mandibles of majority of nest series either penultimate basal tooth is markedly smaller than its flanking teeth, or there is a gap between ultimate and penultimate teeth that is wider than ultimate tooth . . . . . 5
- b. Ultimate and penultimate teeth subequal, gap between them about equal to ultimate tooth . . . . . *alienus*
- 5a. Scape and tibiae with standing hairs . . . . . *neoniger*
- b. Scape and tibiae lacking standing hairs . . . . . *crypticus*
- 6a. Crest of petiole strongly convex (when viewed from front) and not emarginate . . . . . *humilis*
- b. Crest of petiole at most feebly convex and often distinctly emarginate . . . . . 7
- 7a. Eye with fewer than 35 facets . . . . . 8
- b. Eye with 36 or more facets . . . . . 9
- 8a. Outer surface of each tibia with numerous standing hairs . . . . . \**fallax*