
FORMICA FUSCA Linn.

Subsp. SUBPOLITA Mayr, var. PERPILOSA, n. var.

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WORKER. Length 3-5, 5 mm.

Head red, with the crown and occiput more or less infuscated or black. Thorax, petiole, legs and antennae red, the first sometimes slightly infuscated except at the sutures; Gaster black.

Body and legs smooth and shining, the surface of the trunk and coxæ finely coriaceous. Metathorax and epinotum subopaque, owing to the more pronounced coriation which passes on the metapleurae into a system of fine, parallel rugæ intersected by another system of fainter lines.

Whole trunk beset with long, erect, subobtuse, silvery white hairs. Those on the lower surface of the head few but always distinct. Hairs more abundant on the mandibles, clypeus, head, thoracic dorsum and petiolar margin, and most abundant and conspicuous on the gaster. On the legs the hairs are sparse and suberect and mostly confined to the flexor surfaces of the femora and tibiae.

FEMALE. Length 7, 5-9 mm.

Coloration like that of the worker with the following modifications: Mesonotum with a median black blotch near its anterior border and a smaller blotch on either side near the

insertion of the fore wing; postscutellum and posterior portion of scutellum black; basal third of first gastric segment distinctly red.

Top of head, mesonotum, mesopleuræ, scutellum and gaster very glabrous; the other parts, especially the epinotum and metapleuræ subopaque.

Hairs on the body much less conspicuous and relatively shorter than in the worker, so that the glabrous surfaces are much more striking to the naked eye.

Type locality: Cañon City, Colorado (Rev. P. J. Schmitt O. S. B.)

Other localities: Catopaxi, Colorado (Schmitt); Tempe, Arizona (Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell); Paraje, Las Vias, and Las Valles, New Mexico (Cockerell); San Esteban near Marfa, Presidio County, Texas (W. M. Wheeler); Coahuila, Mexico (A. F. Rangel).

Description drawn from numerous workers and four dealated females.

This very distinct variety seems to have been known to Prof. Emery, but was not separated by him from the typical *T. subpolita* Mayr. in his "Beiträge zur nordamerikanischen Ameisenfauna." *T. subpolita sensu stricto* is characterized by the much less abundant pilosity, which is yellowish and not silvery white as in *perpilosa*, and by the darker and less glabrous head and thorax. The typical form is very common in central California where it has been collected for me by my friend Dr. Harold Heath of the Leland Stanford University.

December 21st, 1901, I had an opportunity to observe the nests of the new variety above described, at San Esteban, a few miles south of Marfa, Texas. These nests were dug about the roots of some shrubs in the tall, dry grass of a meadow, and very closely resembled the nests sometimes constructed by *T. fusca* va. *subsericea* Say in grassy fields in the Northern United States. San Esteban was the only locality in which I succeeded in finding these ants in the Trans-Pecos.

University of Texas. May 7th 1902.