

**Key to males for species of *Veromessor*\***

\*The metasternal process is very helpful for separating males of some species, but this character is rarely visible on most mounted specimens. Consequently, this character is not included in the key, but a description of the process is included for each species.

**1** In profile, hairs on dorsum of mesosoma relatively sparse and short, not flexuous; length of most hairs  $< 1.0\text{--}1.5\times$  the distance between their bases and length  $< 0.5\times$  MOD ----- **2**

- In profile, hairs on dorsum of mesosoma numerous and long, flexuous; length of most hairs  $> 3.0\times$  the distance between their bases and length of numerous hairs approaching to exceeding MOD ----- **4**

**2** Larger (HW = 0.77–0.86 mm; HFL = 1.73–1.99); dark brown; cephalic dorsum usually with coarse longitudinal rugae; posterior one-third or more of mesoscutum with fine longitudinal rugae; mesoscutellum roughened to coriarius, weakly shining ----- *lobognathus*

- Smaller (HW = 0.68–0.75 mm; HFL = 1.42–1.75 mm); dark yellowish to yellowish-brown; cephalic dorsum mostly coriarius, lacking rugae; mesoscutum lacking rugae, smooth and strongly shining, rarely weakly coriarius; mesoscutellum smooth and shining ----- **3**

**3** Mandibles with 2–3 teeth basad of preapical tooth; in profile, anteroventral margin of postpetiole interrupted by a minute process, margin weakly concave anterior to process; metasternal process triangular, acuminate ----- *pseudolariversi*

- Mandibles with 1–2 minute denticles or teeth basad of preapical tooth; in profile, anteroventral margin of postpetiole continuous, lacking a minute process; metasternal process elongate, slender, often with a withered look ----- *smithi*

**4** Larger (HW  $> 1.2$  mm; PPW  $> 0.95$  mm; ML  $> 3.0$  mm) ----- *pergandei*

- Smaller (HW  $< 1.0$  mm; PPW  $< 0.75$  mm; ML  $< 2.8$  mm) ----- **5**

**5** In profile, propodeum evenly rounded, lacking carinae, tubercles, or denticles; process on anteroventral margin of peduncle of petiole lacking to poorly-developed and blunt; metasternal process about twice as long as high ----- *julianus*

- In profile, propodeum sharply angulate, often with carinae, tubercles, or denticles; process on anteroventral margin of peduncle of petiole well-developed, erect, and acute; metasternal process at least as high as long, usually acuminate ----- **6**

**6** Anteroventral margin of peduncle of petiole with a spiniform or digitiform process ----- **7**

- Anteroventral margin of peduncle of petiole with a bluntly triangular process, apex acute, posterior surface continuing posterad parallel to ventral margin of peduncle ----- **8**

**7** Anepisternum and katepisternum contiguously punctulate-granulate, anepisternum occasionally with scattered rugae; sides of propodeum contiguously punctulate-granulate with scattered, weak longitudinal rugae; in profile, area posterior to eyes and posterior corners strongly punctulate-granulate with several weak longitudinal rugae ----- *chicoensis*

- Anepisternum mostly smooth to roughened or with faint rugae; katepisternum roughened or coriarius; in profile, area posterior to eyes and posterior corners with prominent longitudinal rugae, interrugae moderately punctulate-granulate ----- *stoddardi*

**8** Anepisternum with weak to moderately strong longitudinal rugae; most to all of katepisternum with scattered, long, flexuous hairs, lacking a row of shorter hairs along posterior margin; in profile, anterior margin of mesoscutum notably overhanging pronotum; metasternal process quadrate to higher than long, apex rounded ----- *andrei*

- Anepisternum densely lineopunctate; anterior one-half of katepisternum with scattered, long flexuous hairs, posterior one-half mostly lacking long flexuous hairs except for a row of short

hairs along posterior border; in profile, anterior margin of mesoscutum and pronotum forming a mostly vertical line; metasternal process triangular, apex acuminate ----- *chamberlini*