

Key to queens for species of *Veromessor*

- 1** Psammophore well-developed, consisting of numerous, long, J-shaped hairs arranged in a distinct row along basolateral margin of head ----- **2**
- Psammophore poorly-developed, consisting of numerous, short to medium length hairs scattered across ventral surface of head; long J-shaped hairs sparse or lacking ----- **8**
- 2** Anteromedial margin of clypeus with a small, blunt tooth or projection; in posterodorsal view, medial and posteromedial surface of petiolar node usually weakly to moderately depressed or concave; concolorous blackish to black; propodeal spines short and triangular, length much less than width at base and length less than distance between their bases ----- *pergandei*
- Anterior margin of clypeus entire, lacking a small medial tooth or projection; in posterodorsal view, medial and posteromedial portion of petiolar node usually evenly rounded; concolorous orangish or orangish-brown to reddish-brown or bicolored with head and mesosoma orange and gaster blackish or if concolorous dark brownish-black, then propodeal spines elongate, length greater than width at base and length similar to distance between their bases ----- **3**
- 3** Maximum basal width of scape greater than maximum preapical width ----- **4**
- Maximum basal width of scape less than to similar to maximum preapical width ----- **6**
- 4** Rugae on cephalic dorsum becoming faint to disappearing above level of ocelli, lacking on posterior margin; in profile, rugae absent posterior to eyes ----- *smithi*
- Rugae on cephalic dorsum continuing to posterior margin; in profile, rugae present posterior to eyes ----- **5**
- 5** Posterior margin of frontal lobes notably constricted; in frontal view, base of scape asymmetrical with ventral portion of anterior edge greatly expanded compared to dorsal edge -----
----- *chamberlini*

- Posterior margin of frontal lobes not notably constricted; in frontal view, base of scape mostly symmetrical with ventral and dorsal portions of anterior edge similar in size or with dorsal edge expanded more than ventral edge ----- *lobognathus*

6 Rugae on cephalic dorsum continue onto posterior margin; propodeal spines elongate, length greater than width at base and length similar to distance between their bases; restricted to the Baja California peninsula of Mexico ----- *julianus*

- Rugae on cephalic dorsum fade and disappear posterad, posterior margins smooth and shining; propodeal spines triangular, length less than width at base and length much less than distance between their bases; only known from California and Nevada ----- **7**

7 In profile, anteroventral margin of postpetiole interrupted by a minute process, margin weakly concave anterior to process; smaller (HW < 1.25 mm; ML < 2.00 mm); longitudinal rugae present over most to all of katapisternum ----- *pseudolariversi*

- In profile, anteroventral margin of postpetiole continuous, lacking a minute process; larger (HW > 1.50 mm; ML > 2.75 mm); longitudinal rugae present on anterior and posterior portion of katapisternum, central portion lacking rugae ----- *lariversi*

8 Dorsal base of scape with a well-developed, horizontal flange; mesoscutellum with numerous longitudinal rugae; medial lobe of clypeus with several coarse longitudinal rugae; hairs on scape variable in length, longest hairs suberect to erect ----- *andrei*

- Dorsal base of scape lacking a horizontal flange; mesoscutellum arugose, smooth and shining; medial lobe of clypeus smooth and shining, lacking rugae, or rugae occasionally near anterior margin; hairs on scape similar in length, all hairs decumbent ----- **9**

9 Smaller (HW < 1.50 mm; ML < 2.30 mm); katapisternum with longitudinal rugae; hairs on first gastral tergum longer, length of longest hairs approaching to equaling MOD; rugae on cephalic dorsum continue onto posterior margin ----- *chicoensis*

- Larger (HW > 1.70 mm; ML > 2.90 mm); katapisternum mostly smooth and shining; hairs on first gastral tergum shorter, length of longest hairs < 0.4–0.5× MOD; rugae on cephalic dorsum fade to disappear on posterior margin ----- *stoddardi*