

Key to workers 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 lacking ----- **8**
- 2** Anteromedial margin of clypeus with a small, blunt tooth or projection; in profile, eye narrowed below with a distinct ventral angle; body dark brownish-black to black ----- *pergandei*
- Anteromedial margin of clypeus entire or concave, but lacking a small medial tooth or projection; in profile, eye rounded below; body usually concolorous yellowish or orangish-brown to rust colored, but never dark brownish-black to black ----- **3**
- 3** Propodeal spines short, length less than distance between their bases ***and*** propodeal spine length $< 0.5 \times \text{MOD}$ ----- **4**
- Propodeal spines long, length greater than distance between their bases ***and*** propodeal spine length $\geq 1.0 \times \text{MOD}$ ----- **6**
- 4** Larger (HW = 1.33–1.61 mm); maximum basal width of scape greater than maximum preapical width; body concolorous dark yellowish-orange or orangish-brown to rust colored; mandible with 8 teeth, rarely 9 ----- *smithi*
- Smaller (HW = 0.93–1.37 mm); maximum basal width of scape less than maximum preapical width; body light yellowish to yellowish-orange or yellowish-red, gaster often slightly darker; mandibles with 7 teeth ----- **5**
- 5** Anteroventral margin of postpetiole interrupted by a transverse ridge, in profile appearing as a minute process, margin weakly concave anterior to process; in dorsal view, pronotum with weak,

discontinuous to continuous, wavy to irregular transverse rugae; dorsum of mesonotum with one to few weak, wavy to irregular, usually discontinuous longitudinal rugae----- *pseudolariversi*

- Anteroventral margin of postpetiole continuous, lacking a minute process; in dorsal view, pronotum and mesonotum arugose, weakly to strongly coriaceous to punctulate-granulate -----

----- *lariversi*

6 Base of scape weakly widened; maximum basal width of scape less than maximum preapical width; cephalic dorsum with fine, closely-spaced, regular to weakly wavy, longitudinal rugae, interrugae moderately to strongly shining; metasternal process about twice as long as high, apex nearly flat ----- *julianus*

- Base of scape distinctly widened; maximum basal width of scape greater than maximum preapical width; cephalic dorsum with prominent widely-spaced, mostly regular longitudinal rugae, interrugae shining or if rugae closely-spaced, then rugae strongly irregular to nearly rugoreticulate, interrugae strongly granulate, dull; metasternal process as long as to slightly longer than high, apex bluntly rounded ----- **7**

7 Propodeal spines longer, length about 2.0× the distance between their bases; cephalic dorsum with prominent, widely-spaced, mostly regular longitudinal rugae, interrugae shining; sides of pronotum with wavy to regular rugae, interrugae smooth and strongly shining; 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 (**Figure 11A**) --- *chamberlini*

- Propodeal spines shorter, length only slightly greater than to rarely 1.5× the distance between their bases; cephalic dorsum with closely-spaced, strongly irregular rugae to nearly rugoreticulate, interrugae strongly granulate, dull; sides of pronotum with weakly to strongly irregular rugae to weakly rugoreticulate, interrugae moderately to strongly granulate, dull to

weakly shining; posterior margin of frontal lobes not 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 (**Figure 11B**) ----- *lobognathus*

8 Propodeal spines long, in dorsal view, length $\geq 2.5\times$ as long as distance between their bases and $\geq 2.5\times$ MOD; hairs on scape variable in length, suberect to erect, longest hairs about 0.3–0.4 \times MOD; anterodorsal margin of pronotum with one to several coarse, irregular, transverse rugae; workers mostly monomorphic ----- *andrei*

- Propodeal spines short, in dorsal view, length less than to about as long as distance between their bases and less than to about as long as MOD; hairs on scape mostly uniform in length, subdecumbent to suberect, longest hairs about 0.1–0.2 \times MOD; anterodorsal margin of pronotum with weak, wavy to regular longitudinal or oblique rugae, rugae rarely transverse; workers polymorphic ----- **9**

9 In dorsal view, rugae on mesonotum similar to those on pronotum, interrugae weakly dull to shining; antennal scape narrowest near midlength ----- *chicoensis*

- In dorsal view, rugae on mesonotum distinctly weaker than those on pronotum, interrugae shining; antennal scape narrowest immediately distad of basal bend ----- *stoddardi*