

A KEY AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF SOLENOPSIS GEMINATA (F.) AND
SOLENOPSIS SAEVISSIMA RICHTERI FOREL¹

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TWO FIRE ANTS, SOLENOPSIS GEMINATA (F.) AND SOLENOPSIS SAEVISSIMA RICHTERI FOREL, FOUND IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES ARE OFTEN MISIDENTIFIED BY THE LAYMAN. BOTH SPECIES BUILD MOUNDS, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER SPECIES USUALLY BUILDS LARGER MOUNDS IN LOAM OR CLAY SOILS. BOTH SPECIES HAVE A VICIOUS STING, BUT THE LATTER SPECIES CAUSES A PUSTULE TO FORM A FEW HOURS AFTER BEING STUNG. S. GEMINATA IS FOUND IN ALL PARTS OF FLORIDA. S. SAEVISSIMA RICHTERI IS FOUND MAINLY IN THE NORTHWESTERN AND ALSO SEVERAL CENTRAL COUNTIES, AND CONTINUES TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT FLORIDA. THERE ARE EXTERNAL OR MORPHOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AS ILLUSTRATED IN FIG. 1 AND FIG. 2. THE CARINA IS PRESENT ON BOTH MINOR AND MAJOR WORKERS OF S. GEMINATA, BUT THE LARGE HEAD OF THE MAJOR WORKER IS EASIER TO SEE.

MAJOR WORKERS

HEAD LARGE AND BIFURCATED (FIG. 1A) GEMINATA
 HEAD MEDIUM SIZE AND ONLY SLIGHTLY BIFURCATED (FIG. 2A) SAEVISSIMA RICHTERI

MINOR WORKERS

EPINOTUM WITH CARINA (ELEVATED RIDGE) ON EITHER SIDE (FIG. 1B) GEMINATA
 EPINOTUM WITHOUT CARINA (ELEVATED RIDGE) (FIG. 2B) SAEVISSIMA RICHTERI

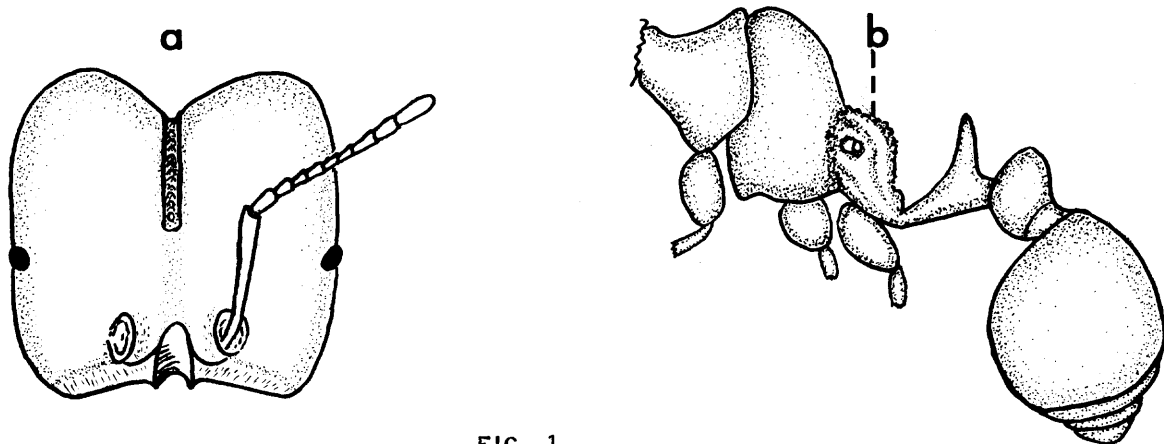


FIG. 1

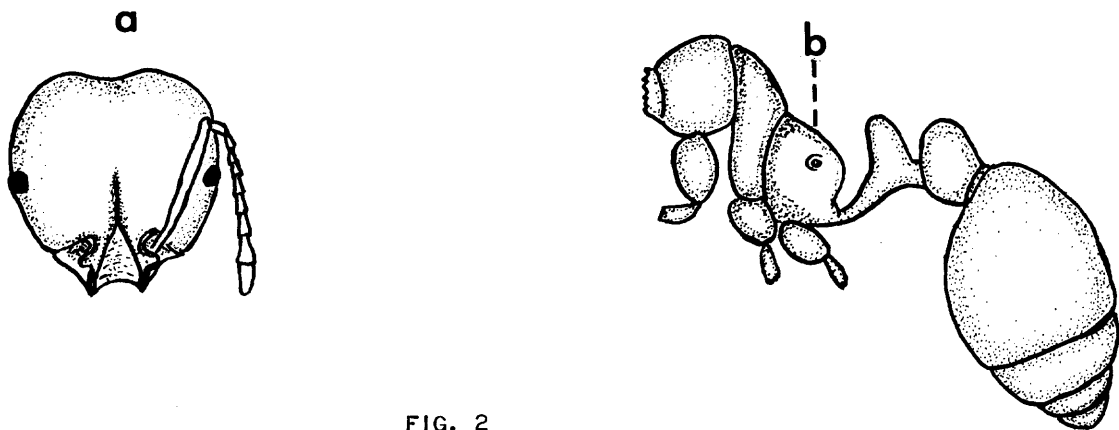


FIG. 2

¹CONTRIBUTION NO. 9, ENTOMOLOGY SECTION