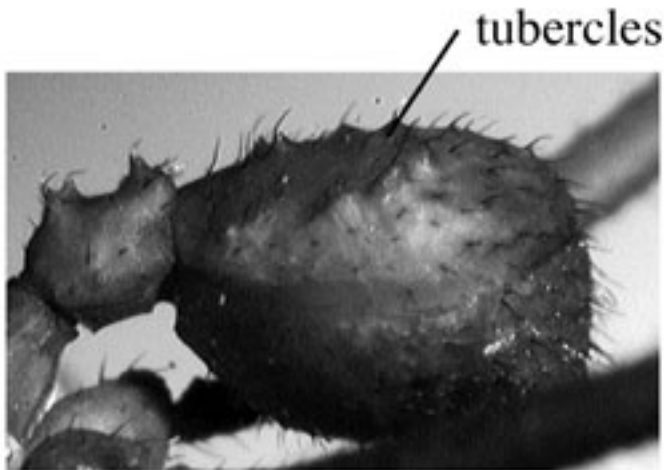
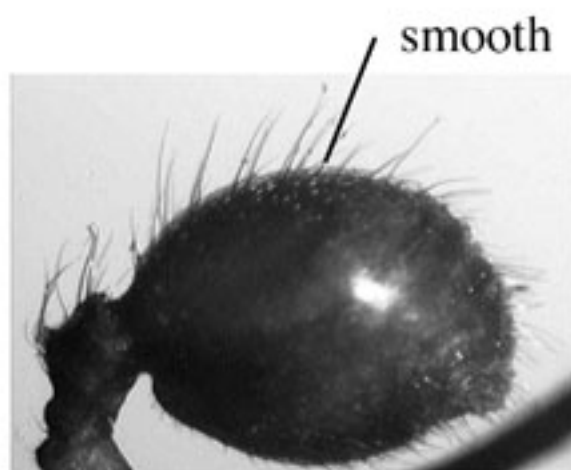


Key to Costa Rican *Acromyrmex*

How to tell *Acromyrmex* from *Atta*:



Acromyrmex



Atta

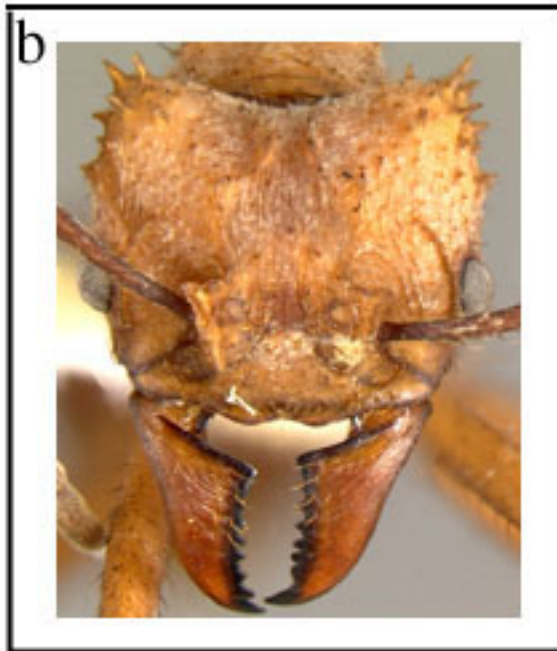
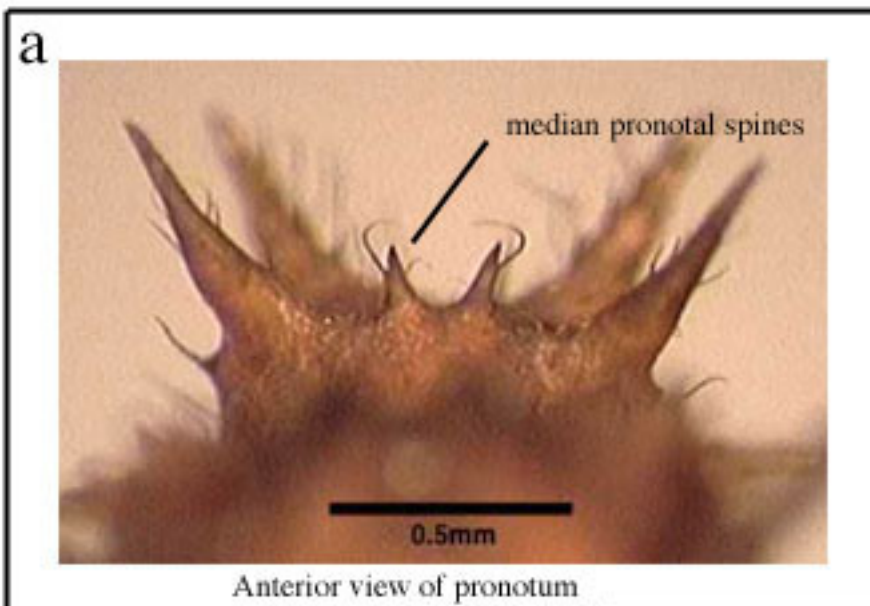
How to tell *Acromyrmex* from *Trachymyrmex*:

No easy way. If you have a nest series, *Acromyrmex* are polymorphic (have workers of different sizes) and the colonies are generally much larger. *Trachymyrmex* workers are monomorphic (all more or less the same size) and colonies are small. If you have only one or a few workers, see if they match one of the *Acromyrmex* species. If they do not, go to *Trachymyrmex*.

How to identify Costa Rica *Acromyrmex* species:

a. Median pronotal spines usually present and distinct, occasionally reduced or absent; head tapering behind eyes; head width less than or equal to 1.7mm (common in montane habitats such as Monteverde, Atlantic slope above 500m, Zurqui): [coronatus](#)

b. Median pronotal spines usually absent, occasionally present as low tubercles, never distinct spines; head not tapering behind eyes; head width less than or equal to 3.2mm: [octospinosus complex](#)



The *octospinosus* complex in Costa Rica

There are subtle patterns of morphology correlated with geographic and behavioral characteristics that suggest three Costa Rican species in the *octospinosus* complex, but I have not been able to discover satisfactory diagnostic characters that will allow unambiguous identification of single workers. I use the following general patterns in the recognition of the three species.

Propodeal spines carinate, irregularly ridged to tip; distinct pair of short, setose carinae on dorsal face of propodeum anterior to spines; all spines and tubercles generally thinner and sharper; color red to yellow-brown; occurs in open dry habitats such as seasonal parts of Guanacaste province and urban areas in San Jose: [echinator](#)

Propodeal spines smoothly or irregularly conical, not carinate; dorsal face of propodeum with pair of indistinct blunt setose tubercles anterior to spines; all spines and tubercles generally thicker, more blunt;

workers of all sizes red to yellow-brown; head width less than or equal to 2.7mm; occurs in Atlantic wet forest and nests on the ground: [octospinosus](#)

Sculptural features like *octospinosus* but major workers dark brown to black (smaller workers may be red to yellow-brown like *octospinosus*); head width less than or equal to 3.2mm; occurs in Atlantic wet forest; in lowlands, where sympatric with *octospinosus*, has arboreal nests: [volcanus](#)

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