

Recent molecular phylogenetic data (van Elst 2020) indicate that *M. placodops* is a complex of three species (see adjoining map) that are at least partly separated by geography. At this time, it is unclear if there are morphological differences among the three forms. One form (*M. placodops*-01) occurs in Texas and probably south into Mexico, while the other two forms occur in more western areas. *M. placodops*-02 occurs in central Arizona south into Sonora, Mexico, while *M. placodops*-03 occurs in northern and western Arizona and southeastern California. Both *placodops*-02 and *placodops*-03 are sympatric or nearly so in southeastern California and southern Nevada. Separating these species requires sequencing samples from numerous additional localities, combined with examination for potential morphological differences among these taxa - sexual castes might also be important to compare potential morphological variation. The identity of the true *M. placodops* described by Forel (1908) is unclear given that this taxon was described from one worker that Forel had in his collection with his type locality listed only as "Mexico". Given this information, it seems likely that the true *M. placodops* is either *M. placodops*-01 or *M. placodops*-02 because current information suggests that *placodops*-03 might not occur in Mexico (see map). As such, the origin of this type specimen needs to be further investigated, but it may be that no additional information can be ascertained relative to its collection locale.