

club. Frontal carinae not placed close to each other, partly concealing antennal insertions. Abdominal pedicel of two segments, the petiole and postpetiole. Petiole pedunculate. Postpetiolar node frequently angulate or conical on the sides. *Specific characters*: Workers 1.6–3 mm. long. Head subrectangular, longer than broad, bilobed, and with a median furrow. Scape short, extending approximately to mid-length of head. Middle of anterior border of clypeus emarginate. Anterior half of head largely longitudinally rugulose; posterior half, smooth and shiny. Thorax with prominent humeral angles. Postpetiolar node distinctly broader than long, laterally angulate. Body color yellowish or light brown to darker brown.

### Biology and Economic Importance

These ants, a common and widely distributed species of *Pheidole*, form small- to moderate-size colonies in rotting wood, and also nest in exposed soil, or under the cover of objects. Nests are commonly constructed in open areas, or where the ground is covered with grass and weeds. The species is highly adaptable, living in deserts, on mountains, beaches, and in many other situations. Nests may occur at altitudes ranging from a few feet to at least 6,000 feet. The natural food is honeydew, seeds, and small insects. Vickery records workers transporting individuals of the corn root aphid *Anuraphis maidiradicis* (Forbes) from plant to plant in cottonfields. Workers have been known to feed on meats, greases, and breads in houses. The species is an intermediate host of the tapeworm of wild and domesticated turkeys, *Raillietina georgiensis* Reid and Nugara, of the chicken tapeworm *R. echinobothrida* (Megnin), and of the domestic fowl tapeworm *R. tetragona* (Molin).

*References*: Wheeler, 1904, p. 301; Wheeler, 1906a, pp. 336–337; Vickery, 1910, pp. 102, 105, 116; Gaige, 1914, pp. 5–7; Horsfall, 1938, pp. 409–421; Dennis, 1938, pp. 282, 304; Cole, 1940, p. 42; Reid and Nugara, 1961, pp. 885–889.

### *Pheidole floridana* Emery

A native species, *floridana* ranges from North Carolina to Florida and through the Gulf Coast States to Texas.

#### Taxonomic Characters

*Subfamily and generic characters*: Same as for *bicarinata vinelandica*. *Specific characters*: Workers 1.5–2.6 mm. long. Anterior border of clypeus with a median emargination. Clypeus with a median longitudinal carina, on each side of which a few smaller, longitudinal rugulae are present. Head bilobed and with a frontal furrow. Scape short, extending to about midlength of head. Frontal carinae about length of scapes, distinctly widening posteriorly and forming a partial scrobe for the reception of each scape, and with a flattened or depressed area to the side of, and posterior to, the scape. Head largely punctulate, subopaque except for a smooth and shiny area of variable size that may include the posterior third or fourth of the head, or only a narrow, transverse band on the occipital lobes. Thorax with distinct humeral angles. Postpetiolar node distinctly wider than long and angulate or conical laterally. Body color yellowish or very light brown.