



Figure 10.—*Pheidole floridana* Emery, lateral view of worker.

Biology and Economic Importance

This species, the least common of the three *Pheidoles* discussed in this paper, appears to be confined largely, if not entirely, to the coastal area, where the ants construct nests in the exposed soil or under the cover of objects; they also nest in logs and stumps, in or under litter, and at the base of trees. Van Pelt reports the species occurring in and around houses in the Welaka Reserve of Florida, and attracted to grease and peanut butter; we have received reports of their nesting in a chimney. Although collecting seeds is a common habit of ants in the genus *Pheidole*, no information is available as to whether the ants feed on honeydew or gather the seeds of weeds and grasses for food, but workers are said to feed on the germinating seed of long leaf pines.

References: Smith, 1930, p. 3; Van Pelt, 1958, pp. 16-17. .

Pheidole dentata Mayr

This native species ranges from Kansas and Virginia south to Texas and Florida.

Taxonomic Characters

Subfamily and generic characters: Same as for *bicarinata vinelandica*. *Specific characters:* Workers 2.4-3.8 mm. long. Head bilobed and with a median furrow. Anterior border of clypeus with a median emargination. Scape extending very noticeably past midlength of head. Anterior half of head sculptured, opaque; posterior half smooth and shiny. Ventral surface of head with a pair of prominent teeth or spines on anterior border (best seen in profile). Much of the mesonotum in the form of a transverse step-like process (best seen in profile). Postpetiolar node very distinctly broader than long, and subangular on each side. Sides of thorax, excluding those of prothorax, sculptured, subopaque. Dorsal surface of gaster with erect hairs of