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#### II. Frequently mentioned collectors

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III. Specimens are listed chronologically and by geographic areas. Details of the New Zealand system of area codes are given in Crosby et al. (1976).

#### Generic identity

The only key available to the genera of New Zealand ants (Brown 1958) does not include six of the 23 genera currently recorded from these islands, including *Pheidole*. Using Brown's key, *Pheidole* minor and major workers key to *Tetramorium* Mayr. *Pheidole* shares the following key characters with *Tetramorium*: waist consisting of two reduced nodiform segments; 12-segmented antennae; propodeum armed with spines.

*Pheidole* can be distinguished from *Tetramorium* (in New Zealand) as follows:

- (1) presence of large-headed major workers (absent in *Tetramorium*);
- (2) only one pair of spines present on propodeum (*Tetramorium* species possess a second pair of spines directly posterior to the first);
- (3) propodeum depressed below the level of the promesonotum (dorsum of the mesothorax flat in *Tetramorium*).

Two species of *Tetramorium* are known to be established in New Zealand: *T. grassii* Emery and *T. bicarinatum* (Nylander) [= *T. guineense* (Fabricius)].

The sculpture characters referred to in the key and the descriptions can be observed under good illumination using a stereo microscope ( $\times 8$  to  $\times 50$  magnification). The use of a scanning electron microscope is not necessary to key specimens out.

#### KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *PHEIDOLE* OCCURRING IN NEW ZEALAND

- 1 Head small, width  $< 0.6$  mm; posteriorly rounded and without distinctly bilobate appearance (Fig. 1) ..... **minors** 2
- Head large, greatest width 1 mm or more; posteriorly with distinctly bilobate appearance (Fig. 2) ..... **majors** 4

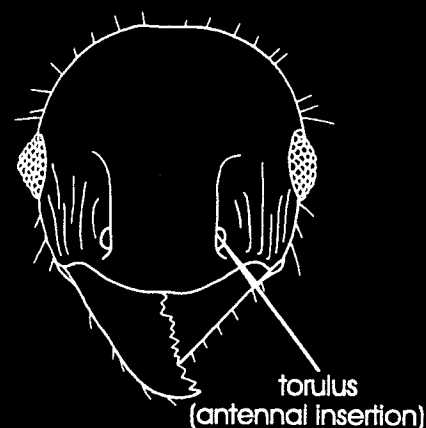


Fig. 1 *Pheidole megacephala* major, head (after Wilson & Taylor 1967).

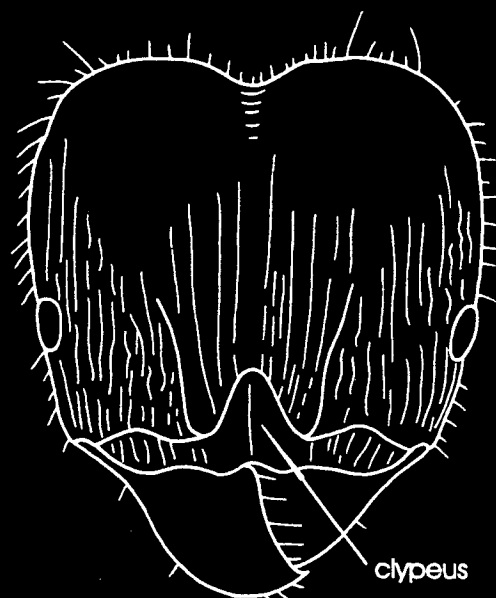


Fig. 2 *Pheidole megacephala* minor, head.

#### 2 Minors

- Length of propodeal spines  $2-3 \times$  diameter of propodeal spiracle (Fig. 9); head reticulate laterally, with longitudinal rugae, and smooth medially (Fig. 8) ..... **rugosula**
- Length of propodeal spines subequal to diameter of propodeal spiracle (Fig. 5, 13); head without reticulate sculpture (Fig. 4, 12) . 3