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The ant genus *Pheidole* was established for *Atta providens* Sykes by Westwood (1839), and is one of the largest genera in the family Formicidae. Up to the end of 1993, 545 species have been described in the world (Bolton, 1995a), while Brown (2000) estimated the total number of species to be 910. *Pheidole* is included in the tribe Pheidolini, along with the genera *Aphaenogaster*, *Chimaeridris*, *Goniomma*, *Huberia*, *Kartidris*, *Lophomyrmex*, *Messor*, *Ocymyrmex*, *Oxyopomyrmex* and *Paraphaenogaster* (fossil taxon) (Bolton, 1995b). The genus is distributed worldwide in the tropics and warm temperate regions (Brown, 2000, Table 5.1). The complicated history of taxonomic treatments of the genus-group taxa associated with *Pheidole* was summarised in Bolton (1995b). Brown (2000) pointed out that probably the largest bloc of unrevised species is the genus *Pheidole*, of which the Nearctic species have been partly revised by Gregg (1959). In the Oriental region *Pheidole* faunas have been hitherto studied in several areas: Japan (Ogata, 1982), Nansei Islands, Japan (Terayama, 1999), China (Wheeler, 1928, 1930; Wu & Wang, 1995; Xu *et al.*, 1998), Taiwan (Forel, 1912a; Wheeler, 1909), Burma (Bingham, 1903), Philippines (Baltazar, 1966), Singapore (Viehmeier, 1916), Borneo (Wheeler, 1919), Sumatra (Forel, 1913; Crawley, 1924), Simeulue (Forel, 1915), Java (Forel, 1905, 1913), and India and Ceylon (Forel, 1902; Bingham, 1903). Most of them were, however, based on limited collections, and / or incomprehensive as revisions of regional faunas (with few exceptions, *e.g.*, Ogata, 1982).

In his revision of Bornean ants Wheeler (1919) listed and described only eight species of *Pheidole*: *P. megacephala* (Fabricius), *P. javana* Mayr (synonymised with *P. fervens* Fr. Smith in Wilson & Taylor, 1967), *P. bugi* Wheeler, *P. aristotelis* Forel, *P. comata* Fr. Smith, *P. havilandi* Forel, *P. sauberi* subsp. *sarawakana* Forel (raised to species: Eguchi, 2001), *Ischnomyrmex longipes* (Fr. Smith) (treated as *P. longipes* in Bolton, 1995b). I have so far recognised 52 species from Borneo, mainly based on the material from Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei. Through my careful examination of type materials of most of the species and subspecies of *Pheidole* originally described from the Indo-Malayan subregion, and also of some of the forms described from the Indo-Chinese subregion, I have found 23 species to be new to science.

In this study I have attempted to revise Bornean *Pheidole*, although material from Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) is still quite limited. Firstly, I present a generic diagnosis and keys to Bornean species excluding *P. cingulata* (Fr. Smith). This species was described from Borneo, but the original description was brief and rough, and according to B. Bolton (in litt., 2000) "the types of *P. cingulata* are not here [BMNH], not at Oxford, and are presumed lost". For previously known species