

TAXONOMY

Generic Diagnosis

Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan species of this genus can be distinguished from those of the other myrmicine genera by a combination of the following characteristics.

- Worker dimorphic, but rarely "polymorphic" (the major showing a relatively wide range in size, e.g., in *Pheidole smythiesii* Forel).
- Antenna 12-segmented; antennal club 3-segmented, but rarely 4-segmented (*P. smythiesii*, *P. bluntschlii* Forel, *P. gatesi* (Wheeler) and *P. sinica* (Wu & Wang)), 5-segmented (*P. quinata* Eguchi and *P. sabahna* Eguchi), or inconspicuous (*P. comata* Fr. Smith, *P. longipes* Fr. Smith and *P. montana* Eguchi).
- Palp formula (PF: maxillary palp and labial palp) 2, 2 or 3, 2 (Bolton, 1994). PF of the minor of the following species is confirmed as 2, 2 in the present study: *P. acantha* sp. nov., *P. aglae*, *P. annexus* sp. nov., *P. aristotelis*, *P. cariniceps* sp. nov., *P. clypeocornis* sp. nov., *P. comata*, *P. elisae*, *P. hortensis*, *P. inornata* sp. nov., *P. longipes*, *P. lucioccipitalis* sp. nov., *P. megacephala*, *P. modiglianii*, *P. montana*, *P. plagiaria*, *P. planidorsum* sp. nov., *P. quadrensis*, *P. quadricuspis*, *P. quinata*, *P. rabo*, *P. retivertex* sp. nov., *P. sabahna*, *P. sauberi*, *P. sayapensis* sp. nov., *P. tenebricosa* sp. nov. and *P. tjibodana*.
- Promesonotum forming a dome which is higher than the level of dorsal surface of propodeum; its posterior declivity toward metanotal groove sometimes with a prominence.
- Propodeal spine present, but variable in size and shape.
- Petiole in profile cuneiform, and usually with a distinct node.

The following characteristics are seen only in the major.

- Posterior corner of head well developed and forming occipital lobe (Fig. 2A).
- Mandible massive; masticatory margin of mandible edentate excluding apical and preapical teeth, and 1-2 denticles in front of basal angle (the margin rarely without the denticles).
- Hypostoma (anteriormost region of venter of cranium) always bearing a large or reduced process just mesal to each mandibular base, and often bearing 1-3 median processes (Fig. 2D).
- Articulation between head and alitrunk located on posteroventral face of head.

Keys to Species of Bornean *Pheidole*

Because the major of *P. gombakensis* sp. nov. has not been collected from Borneo, the major from Ulu Gombak, southern Malay Peninsula are used for making the keys "A" and "C".

A. Majors

1. Antenna with 3-segmented club..... 6
- Antenna with 5-segmented club (Figs. 40C, 44C), or without conspicuous club..... 2