

Dorsal and lateral faces of head including clypeus smooth and shining; posterolateral face of head very weakly punctured; promesonotum smooth and shining with irregular rugulae dorsally, and weakly punctured laterally and anterodorsally; remainder of alitrunk punctured; lateral face of petiole weakly punctured; dorsum of petiole, and postpetiole and gaster smooth and shining. Body light yellowish-brown to yellowish-brown, with a little darker mandibles (sometimes gaster also darker than head and alitrunk).

Recognition This species is characterised among Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan congeners by a combination of the following characteristics: hypostoma of the major bearing a pair of large median processes (Fig. 17C); posterior declivity of promesonotal dome of both the subcastes bearing a distinct prominence; promesonotal dome of the minor with a pair of low tubercles dorsolaterally (Fig. 17F); eye of both the subcastes relatively small; distance between mandibular insertion and anterior margin of eye 2.0-2.1 times as long as maximal diameter of eye in the major, and 1.3-1.5 times in the minor; postpetiole in both the subcastes massive.

Distribution Borneo and Sumatra.

Bionomics Within Borneo this species has so far been collected only from well-developed lowland forests in Sarawak.

17. *Pheidole gombakensis* sp. nov. (Fig. 18)

Holotype Major, colony: FI99-134, Ulu Gombak, W. Malaysia (Southern Malay Peninsula), F. Ito leg., 1999, deposited in FRIM.

Paratype One minor from the same colony to which the holotype belongs, deposited in FRIM.

Other specimens examined BORNEO. Sabah, Malaysia: Deramakot Forest Reserve, 1 minor, CB, 1998-1999; Poring, 560 m alt. (East Ridge), 1 minor (code AW-2), CB, 1995.

The following description and measurements are based on the holotype and paratype.

Major Measurements and indices ($n=1$): TL 2.2 mm, HL 0.91 mm, HW 0.78 mm, SL 0.39 mm, FL 0.49 mm, CI 86, SI 50, FI 63. Head broadest around its midlength; posterior margin of head in full-face view emarginate triangularly (Fig. 18A); head in profile not impressed on vertex (Fig. 18B). Hypostoma bearing a pair of large and stout median processes (Fig. 18C). Clypeus without a median longitudinal carina. Eye situated just in front of $1/3$ distance of head (as measured from the mid-point of a transverse line spanning the anteriormost and posteriormost projecting points, respectively (cf. Fig. 2A)); distance between mandibular insertion and anterior margin of eye ca. 1.5 times as long as maximal diameter of eye. Frontal carina inconspicuous, extending backward to $1/3$ distance of head. Antennal scrobe present only around antennal insertion. Antenna with 3-segmented club; scape extending backward to about midlength of head; terminal segment ca. 1.3 times as long as preceding two segments together. Masticatory margin of mandible with apical and preapical teeth, and a denticle in front of basal angle. Promesonotum forming a high dome, without a distinct prominence on its posterior declivity (Fig. 18D). Mesopleuron without a distinct transverse impression. Propodeal spine horn-like, with narrow base, ca. 2.5 times as long as diameter of propodeal spiracle. Petiole nearly twice as long as postpetiole (excluding helcium); petiolar node in posterior view not emarginate at apex. Postpetiole ca. 1.4 times as broad as petiolar node, angulate laterally.

Frons and gena longitudinally rugose; vertex, and dorsal and dorsolateral faces of occipital lobe reticulate; dorsum of promesonotum irregularly rugose, with smooth and shining enclosures; lateral