

mandible with a row of longer decumbent hairs. Body brown with a little lighter lateral face of alitrunk; legs lighter than alitrunk.

Minor Measurements and indices (n=5): TL 1.8-2.2 mm, HL 0.58-0.67 mm, HW 0.53-0.60 mm, SL 0.63-0.69 mm, AL 0.80-0.90 mm, FL 0.64-0.73 mm, CI 88-92, SI 115-122, FI 121-126. Head in full-face view oval (Fig. 28D); occipital carina distinct. Clypeus without a median longitudinal carina, with anterior margin in full-face view truncate medially. Eyes situated just behind midlength of head; distance between mandibular insertion and anterior margin of eye almost as long as maximal diameter of eye. Frontal carina and antennal scrobe present only around antennal insertion. Antenna with 3-segmented club; scape extending beyond posterior margin of head by 1/4 length of scape; terminal segment ca. 0.9 times as long as preceding two segments together. Promesonotum forming a low dome, without any distinct prominence on its posterior declivity toward inconspicuous metanotal groove (Fig. 28E). Mesopleuron without a transverse impression. Propodeal spine elongate-triangular, almost as long as diameter of propodeal spiracle. Petiole cuneiform, 1.1-1.2 times as long as postpetiole (excluding helcium); petiolar node low, in posterior view not emarginate at apex. Postpetiole in dorsal view subpentagonal, 1.7-1.9 times as broad as petiolar node; anterodorsal declivity in profile gentler than posterodorsal one.

Head including clypeus and promesonotum smooth and shining; mesopleuron and lateral face of propodeum punctured weakly and dull; lateral face of petiole very weakly punctured; dorsum of petiole, and postpetiole and gaster smooth and shining. Body colour pattern similar to that of the major.

Recognition This medium-sized species is characterised by a combination of the following conditions: vertex and occipital lobe of the major smooth and shining; hypostoma of the major lacking median processes; posterior declivity of promesonotal dome lacking a distinct prominence in both the subcastes (Fig. 28C, E); petiole ca. 1.2 times as long as postpetiole in both the subcastes (Fig. 28C, E).

Distribution This species apparently is native to Africa, and has been spread by commerce to almost all of the more humid parts of the tropics (Wilson & Taylor, 1967).

Bionomics This species inhabits urban and man-made habitats.

28. *Pheidole merimbun* sp. nov. (Fig. 29)

Holotype Major, colony: Eg99-BOR-086, Merimbun Heritage Park, BRUNEI, K. Eguchi leg., 1999, deposited in MBD.

Paratypes 3 majors and 4 minors from the same colony to which the holotype belongs, deposited in BMNH, MBD and UMS.

Major Measurements and indices (n=4): TL 2.3-2.6 mm, HL 1.00-1.08 mm, HW 0.90-0.95 mm, SL 0.45-0.48 mm, FL 0.59-0.60 mm, CI 88-90, SI 47-51, FI 63-66. Head broadest at about 3/5 distance of head (as measured from the mid-point of a transverse line spanning the anteriormost and posteriormost projecting points, respectively (cf. Fig. 2A)) (Fig. 29A), in profile slightly impressed on vertex (Fig. 29B). Hypostoma bearing three median processes, of which medianmost one is poorly developed. Clypeus without a median longitudinal carina, with anterior margin very weakly concave medially. Eye situated just behind 1/3 distance of head; 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 3/5-2/3 distance of head. Antennal scrobe inconspicuous, running along frontal