

without a transverse impression. Propodeal spine slender and pointed, ca. 3.5 times as long as diameter of propodeal spiracle. Petiole ca. 1.9 times as long as postpetiole (excluding helcium) with long pedicel (almost as long as postpetiole); petiolar node conspicuous, in posterior view not emarginate at apex. Postpetiole 1.4-1.5 times as broad as petiolar node.

Clypeus slightly rugose, with punctured and dull interspaces; most part of dorsum of head excluding clypeus and dorsum of promesonotum weakly reticulate, with punctured enclosures; lateral faces of head and alitrunk, and petiole and postpetiole punctured and dull; first gastral tergite very weakly and finely rugoso-reticulate just around its articulation with postpetiole. Body light yellowish-brown with a little lighter gaster; antennae and legs lighter than alitrunk.

**Recognition** This species may be closely related to *P. tsailuni* Wheeler among Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan congeners, but I refrain from concluding the relationship between them until additional specimens from various localities, especially southern part of Thailand, are available. This species is similar to *P. bugi*, but in the latter eye of the major larger, three processes on hypostoma of head of the major subequal in size, anterolateral face of head below subocular level smooth and shining in the minor.

**Distribution** Southern Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra.

**Bionomics** This species seems to inhabit well-developed lowland forests.

#### 41. *Pheidole retivertex* sp. nov. (Fig. 42)

**Holotype** Major, colony: Eg98-BOR-865, Sepilok forest, Sabah, E. Malaysia (Borneo), K. Eguchi leg., 1998, deposited in UMS.

**Paratypes** 5 majors, 12 minors, 2 queens and 1 male from the same colony to which the holotype belongs, deposited in BMNH, MCZ, MSNM, NHMW and UMS.

**Other specimens examined** BORNEO. Sabah, Malaysia: Deramakot Forest Reserve, 1 minor, CB, 1998-1999; Gunong Rara, 2 majors and 5 minors (Eg97-BOR-578); Poring, 560 m alt. (East Ridge), 1 minor (code AW-2/9), CB, 1995 / 600 m alt., 3 majors, 6 minors and 1 male (6XI0106-14-4; 06Q37S5, 06Q46S5), TK; Sepilok forest, 25 majors, 49 minors, 5 queens and 3 males (Eg97-BOR-411, 411B, 411C, 433, 477, 496, 497, 498; Eg98-BOR-875). MALAY PENINSULA. Malaysia: Ulu Gombak, 3 majors and 5 minors (FI92MG-188). SUMATRA, Indonesia. Ulu Gadut, Padang, W. Sumatra, 1 major, 2 minors and 1 queen (FI97-341).

**Major** Measurements and indices (n=5): TL 2.5-2.8 mm, HL 1.34-1.54 mm, HW 1.20-1.39 mm, SL 0.62-0.70 mm, FL 0.73-0.82 mm, CI 89-92, SI 48-52, FI 58-61. Head with almost parallel sides (Fig. 42A); head in profile not impressed on vertex (Fig. 42B). Hypostoma with a large median process. Clypeus with a median longitudinal carina, with anterior margin concave medially. Eye situated at about 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 1.7-2.0 times as long as maximal diameter of eye. Frontal carina well developed, horizontal, extending backward to 2/3 distance of head (Fig. 42A). Antennal scrobe overhung by frontal carina. Antenna with 3-segmented club; scape extending backward to about 3/5 distance of head; terminal segment ca. 1.2 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. Promesonotal dome with a small or inconspicuous prominence on its posterior declivity (Fig. 42C); each dorsolateral portion of the dome weakly produced outward. Mesopleuron