

Clypeus almost smooth and shining; remainder of dorsum of head weakly rugoso-reticulate, with enclosures very weakly punctured; lateral face of head weakly reticulate; dorsum of promesonotum very weakly punctured, or almost smooth with several irregular rugulae; lateral face of promesonotum weakly punctured; remainder of alitrunk largely punctured and dull; lateral face of petiolar pedicel weakly punctured; dorsum of petiole, and postpetiole and gaster smooth and shining. Head and alitrunk light brown; waist, gaster, antennae and legs yellowish-brown.

Recognition *P. retivertex* sp. nov. is closely related to *P. nodgii* Forel, *P. magrettii* Emery, *P. tjibodana* Forel, *P. sayapensis* sp. nov. and several undescribed species, and all these are peculiar among Indo-Chinese and Indo-Malayan congeners in having the combination of the characteristics noted under *P. tjibodana*. This species is most closely related to *P. magrettii*, but in the latter head and alitrunk of the minor are distinctly punctured. This species is also easily distinguished from two Bornean relatives, *P. tjibodana* and *P. sayapensis* sp. nov., by the characters given in the key.

Distribution Southern Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra.

Bionomics This species inhabits well-developed lowland forests, and nests in rotting wood blocks and twigs, and stores up a number of tiny seeds in its nest (Eg97-BOR-411). I have never encountered colonies which include more than one dealate queen.

42. *Pheidole rugifera* sp. nov. (Fig. 43)

Holotype Major, colony: Eg98-BOR-836, Lambir Hills N. P., near Miri, Sarawak, E. Malaysia (Borneo), K. Eguchi leg., 1998, deposited in FRCK.

Paratypes 19 majors and 20 minors from the same colony to which the holotype belongs, deposited in BMNH, FRCK, MBD, MCSN, MCZ, MHNG, MSNM, NHMW and UMS.

Other specimens examined BORNEO. Sarawak, Malaysia: Kubah N. P., 1 minor (GC), SKY, 1994; Lambir Hills N. P., 8 majors and 9 minors (Eg98-BOR-802, 813) / 8 minors (GC), SKY, 1993 and 1995. MALAY PENINSULA. Malaysia: Ulu Gombak, 1 major and 1 minor (FI92MG-470). SUMATRA, Indonesia. Maninjau, W. Sumatra, 1 minor, SNS.

Major Measurements and indices (n=6): TL 1.9-2.2 mm, HL 0.84-0.94 mm, HW 0.77-0.84 mm, SL 0.38-0.40 mm, FL 0.46-0.49 mm, CI 89-92, SI 45-52, FI 55-63. Head broadest at about 1/2-3/5 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. 43A), in profile weakly impressed on vertex (Fig. 43B). Hypostoma bearing one median process (rarely this process reduced in size). Clypeus without a median longitudinal carina, with anterior margin weakly concave medially; lateral part of clypeus weakly produced dorsally, but not developed into a horn as seen in *P. clypeocornis* sp. nov. Eye situated at about 1/3 distance of head; distance between mandibular insertion and anterior margin of eye 1.4-1.7 times as long as maximal diameter of eye. Frontal carina horizontal, extending backward to 3/5-2/3 distance of head (Fig. 43A). Antennal scrobe narrowly overhung by frontal carina. Antenna with 3-segmented club; scape extending backward to 1/2-3/5 distance of head; terminal segment 1.1-1.2 times as long as preceding two segments together. Masticatory margin of mandible with apical and preapical teeth, and two denticles in front of basal angle. Promesonotum forming a high dome, without a distinct prominence on its posterior declivity (Fig. 43C); each dorsolateral portion of the dome produced outward. Mesopleuron divided by a weak transverse impression into upper and lower parts. Propodeal spine triangular or elongate-triangular, almost twice as long as diameter of propodeal spiracle. Petiole 1.8-1.9 times as long as postpetiole (excluding