



Fig. 47. *Pheidole sayapensis* sp. nov. (type material: Eg98-BOR-051): A, major, head in full-face view; B, same, head in profile; C, same, alitrunk and waist in profile; D, minor, head in full-face view; E, same, alitrunk and waist in profile.

SL 0.55-0.60 mm, AL 0.87-0.90 mm, FL 0.62-0.65 mm, CI 95-98, SI 87-92, FI 97-99. Head in full-face view almost truncate posteriorly (Fig. 47D); occipital carina evanescent dorsally on head. Clypeus with a median longitudinal carina, with anterior margin in full-face view slightly convex medially. Eyes situated just in front of midlength of head; distance between mandibular insertion and anterior margin of eye 1.1-1.2 times as long as maximal diameter of eye. Frontal carina inconspicuous, extending backward to midlength of head. Antennal scrobe present only around antennal insertion. Antenna with 3-segmented club; in full-face view scape extending beyond posterior margin of head by its 1/6 length; terminal segment 1.1-1.2 times as long as preceding two segments together. Promesonotum forming a low dome; dorsum of the dome relatively flat (Fig. 47E). Mesopleuron without a distinct transverse impression. Propodeal spine horn-like, slightly downcurved, ca. 6 times as long as diameter of propodeal spiracle (Fig. 47E). Petiole 1.9-2.0 times as long as postpetiole (excluding helcium); petiolar node in posterior view not emarginate at apex. Postpetiole ca. 1.3 times as broad as petiole.

Clypeus with several irregular rugulae; remainder of head and alitrunk distinctly reticulate; petiole (excluding its anterior face smooth and shining) and postpetiole weakly reticulate; gaster smooth and shining. Body dark brown; flagella and legs lighter than alitrunk.

**Recognition** *P. sayapensis* sp. nov. is closely related to *P. nodgii* Forel, *P. magrettii* Emery, *P. tjibodana* Forel, *P. retivertex* 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*. *P. sayapensis* sp. nov. is distinguishable from the Bornean relatives in having distinctly reticulate head and alitrunk in the minor, and very long propodeal spine in the minor (Fig. 47E).

**Distribution** Borneo.

**Bionomics** This species has so far been collected from only Sayap Kinabalu (ca. 1000 alt.). This species seems to inhabit well-developed hill forests. The colony Eg96-BOR-051 nested in a rotting wood block, and stored up a number of tiny seeds inside the nest.