

Two new species of *Pheidole* Westwood (Myrmicinae: Formicidae: Hymenoptera) from India

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ABSTRACT : Two species of *Pheidole*; viz *P. terraceensis* sp. nov. and *P. duneraensis* sp. nov. are described and illustrated. The new species differ remarkably from other species of this genus described hitherto.

Genus *Pheidole* Westwood is represented by about 535 species over the globe. From Oriental region it is represented by about 63 species and from India by 35 valid species (Bolton, 1995a and 1995b). After Bingham's Fauna (1903); only one species was described by Wilson (1984) from India. During the present studies, two new species viz. *Pheidole terraceensis* sp. nov. and *Pheidole duneraensis* sp. nov. have been discovered. These two differ considerably from other species of this genus and have been described and illustrated in present text.

PHEIDOLE TERRACEENSIS SP. NOV.

Holotype Major (worker) (Figs. 1,2,3): Length: 6 mm; Head length 1.7 mm; Head width: 1.6 mm; Scape length: 1.63 mm; Scape index: 98.39; Eye diameter: 0.29 mm; Pronotal width: 0.93 mm; Alitrunk length: 2 mm; Cephalic index: 103.7; Mandibular index: 41.66.

Head (Figs. 1,3): Almost as long as broad, slightly converging below eyes; transverse depression below vertex; mandibles with two apical teeth; antennal club formed by 3 apical joints, which are much longer than preceding joints; antennal scrobes well developed reaching up to length of scape; scape falls 1/5th short of its length of head; eyes lateral, placed below mid-line of head; frontal carinae covering bases of antennae, diverging posteriorly extending feebly up to upper margin of eyes; clypeus with anterior margin incised in middle, dentate, posterior margin extending in between frontal carinae; lateral margin of clypeus with pit in front of antennal insertions; clypeus with strong carina in middle; a pit or depression present above clypeal carina; small tubercle precedes this pit towards irons; whole of head rugulose, area between rugae and in scrobes finely punctate; mandibles finely punctured; covered with long hair all over.

Alitrunk, Petiole and Post-Petiole (Figs. 2,3): Pronotum with small lateral tubercles, convex; pro-mesonotal suture indistinct; mesonotum with transverse ridge; metanotal groove

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