Holotype: Worker (Major); India, Dunera, Himachal Pradesh; 700 Mtrs.; 8.III. 2000; Bharti, H.

Paratypes: 8 majors, 9 minors with same data as of holotype.

Habitat: Collected from soil nest; pupae also collected.

Discussion: The species P. duneraensis sp. nov. is somewhat allied to P. malinsii Forel and P. terraceensis sp. nov.; but can be easily separated from both. From P. malinsii as; propodeum smooth and shining in malinsii; densely punctured in P. duneraensis sp. nov.; petiole appendage with a spine in malinsii; without spine in duneraensis sp. nov.; gaster longitudinally striate in basal half in malinsii; but densely punctured in basal half and finely punctured in rest of it in duneraensis sp. nov. P. duneraensis sp. nov. can also be separated from P. terraceensis sp. no . as; clypeal incision ending into acute teeth in terraceensis sp. nov.; blunt teeth in duneraensis sp. nov.; propodeal spines long in terraceensis sp. nov.; short in duneraensis sp. nov.; alitrunk rugulose along with fine punctures in terraceensis sp. nov.; but densely puncutured without rugae in duneraensis sp. nov. Both species differ remarkably in measurement indices, discussed in text, apart from other differences.

Etymology: Species is named after its type locality, Dunera, Himachal Pradesh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The financial assistance rendered by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi is thankfully acknowledged. Author is also grateful to Barry Bolton, BMNH, London for guidance and literature.

REFERENCES

Bharti, H. 2000. Check list of Ants from North-West India-II. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., (in press).

Bharti, H. 2001. Check list of Ants from North-West India-I. Uttar Pradesh J. Zool., 21(2): 163-167.

Bingham, C.T. 1903. *Hymenoptera Vol.* II Ants, Cuckoo Wasps. The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Taylor Francis, London. XIX + 106 pp.

Bolton, B. 1995a. A New General Catalogue of Ants of World. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge, M.A. 504 pp.

Bolton, B. 1995b. A taxonomic and Zoogeographical census of extrinct ant taxa (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *J Nat. Hist.*, **29**: 1037-1056.

Wilson, E.O. 1984. Tropical social parasites in the ant genus *Pheidole*, with an analysis of the anatomical parasitic syndrome. *Insects Sociaux*, **31**: 316-334.

(Accepted: September 10, 2001)