

convexity slightly developed; propodeal spines at near right angles to propodeum; in dorsal view, postpetiole roughly diamond-shaped; gaster shining, darker than head and mesosoma, with erect hairs throughout.

*Etymology*.— Named in honor of Vicki A. Funk, botanist (USNM), who has worked tirelessly to promote the discovery, documentation, and conservation of the Guiana Shield's biological diversity.

*Measurements*.— Holotype major worker. TL: 2.29; HL: 0.798; HW: 0.783; SL: 0.391; ML: 0.673; PW: 0.391; GL: 0.814; CI: 98; SI: 50.

*Comments*.— This species clearly belongs to the *scrobifera*-group as defined by Wilson (2003). *P. funki* possesses 12-segmented antennae coupled with distinct scrobes. It is only the second species of the group to be found in South America. *P. peckorum* is known from a single locality in Ecuador. One species is found in Cuba (*P. cubaensis*), while the remainder of species are known only from Central America.

The single specimen known for this species was collected in a leaf litter sample extracted in a mini-Winkler. The leaf litter sample was collected in old-growth lowland rainforest. Other species in the *scrobifera*-group are known to be soil and rotting wood nesting species. *P. scrobifera* has been observed foraging at night. Another *scrobifera*-group species from Costa Rica, *P. simonsi*, has been found with seed caches in their nests, but they are not restricted to granivory, as workers readily recruited to different kinds of baits (Wilson 2003). Other than being collected from leaf litter, nothing is known of *P. funki*'s biology.

#### MODIFIED VERSION OF WILSON (2003) KEY

*Pheidole funki* would key out to *P. peckorum*. The key can be modified as below to include *P. funki*. Numbering of key follows Wilson (2003).

- 2 Major: in full-face view, posterior margin (= occiput) free of rugoreticulae, in contrast with rest of head capsule, which (exclusive of center of the clypeus) is entirely rugoreticulate ..... **3**
- Major: posterior margin (= occiput) in full-face view rugoreticulate or longitudinally carinate ..... **4** (couplet 3 in Wilson)
- 3 Major: in lateral view, most of dorsal profile of the head, from the anterior clypeal margin (= clypeal border) to the level of the posterior margin of the antennal scrobe, bears a dense row of very short, perfectly erect hairs, all approximately equal in length like the teeth of a comb ..... *peckorum*
- Major: in lateral view, most of dorsal profile of the head, from the anterior clypeal margin (= clypeal border) to the level of the posterior margin of the antennal scrobe, bears erect hairs that become gradually longer toward posterior margin ..... *funki*