

Pheidole schultzi LaPolla, new species

Major worker (fig. 2); minor worker (fig. 3)

Holotype.— Major worker, GUYANA: Mt. Ayanganna, *Dicymbe* Camp, Mount Ayanganna, 5°17.760'N, 59°54.632'W, elev. 717 m, 6 October 2002 (J.S. LaPolla et al.) (UGBC); 3 paratype majors, 3 paratype minors from same locality as holotype (MCZC, USNM); 5 paratype majors from GUYANA: Iwokrama Forest Reserve, Whitewater Camp, elev. 60 m; 58°50.992' W, 4°43.89' N, 5 November 2002 (J.S. LaPolla et al.) (USNM); 1 paratype major from GUYANA: Mt. Ayanganna Base Camp; elev. 732 m; 59°55.486' W, 5°20.063' N; 9 October 2002 (J.S. LaPolla et al.) (USNM).

Diagnosis.— Major worker. 11-segmented antennae; antennal scrobes present; in full-face view head roughly heart-shaped; Minor worker. Head and mesosoma covered in foveolae.

Description.— Matching general characteristics of the *tachigaliae*-group (11-segmented antennae and antennal scrobes) as defined by Wilson (2003). Major worker. *Head*: light brown, scapes yellowish-brown; in full-face view, head covered by parallel longitudinal carinulae; foveolae in between carinulae; head roughly heart-shaped; covered in scattered erect hairs; posterior margin concave medially. *Mesosoma and Gaster*: light brown, legs yellowish-brown; mesosoma, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster covered in foveolae; sparse erect hairs on mesosomal dorsum, more concentrated on pronotal dorsum; propodeal spines short, directed backwards; in dorsal view, postpetiole subrectangular; gaster shining, covered in a scattered layer of erect hairs; gaster yellowish-brown, with darker band encircling center.

Minor worker. *Head*: yellow; covered in foveolae; with scattered erect hairs; scapes reach to slightly surpass posterior margin. *Mesosoma and Gaster*: yellow; covered in foveolae; with scattered erect hairs; gaster shining, yellowish-brown.

Etymology.— Named in honor of Ted R. Schultz for his many contributions to myrmecology.

Measurements.— Holotype major worker. TL: 1.78; HL: 0.579; HW: 0.642; SL: 0.344; ML: 0.563; PW: 0.344; GL: 0.642; CI: 111; SI: 54.

Paratype minor worker. TL: 1.156; HL: 0.375; HW: 0.376; SL: 0.344; ML: 0.391; PW: 0.250; GL: 0.390; CI: 100; SI: 91.

Comments.— Within the *tachigaliae*-group, *P. schultzi* is only likely to be confused with *P. tachigaliae* (all other species have 11-segmented antennae and transverse carinulae)(compare figs. 2 and 4). This species can be distinguished from *P. tachigaliae* based on overall head shape: *P. schultzi*'s roughly heart-shaped head is very distinct. Additionally, the species is less hairy than *P. tachigaliae* and the major of *P. schultzi* lacks carinulae on the anterior pronotum. Finally, the scrobes of *P. schultzi* are much more weakly defined than in *P. tachigaliae*.

Wilson (2003) suggested that the *tachigaliae* species-group consists of two lineages: *P. tachigaliae* and the remaining species (*P. dorsata*, *P. gibbata*, *P. mendicula*, and *P. pedana*) each forming clades. *Pheidole schultzi* appears to be closely related to *P. tachigaliae* because it is the only other species in the group that possesses longitudinal carinulae. All other species possess transverse carinulae.

Not much is known of the biology of *tachigaliae*-group species. *P. schultzi*