



Figure 1. *Solenopsis phoretica*, **new species**, dealate queen, lateral view (above) and frontal view of head. Actual length of insect: 3.03 mm.

punctures on pronotum, near margins of mesonotum, mesopleura, sides of propodeum; disc of mesonotum and declivity of propodeum unpunctured; propodeum evenly declivitous in lateral view, only slightly convex; legs smooth, shining, with sparse, strong, semidecumbent, distally-directed hairs. Petiole: peduncle short, less than 0.25 length of base of petiole in lateral view; petiole in lateral view triangular, apex broadly and smoothly rounded; in posterior view apex strongly convex; ventral process narrowly expanded, with a small triangular tooth. Postpetiole: low and rounded above in lateral view, in posterior view about 1.5 times as wide as long, broadly convex. Gaster: in dorsal view with prominent, rounded anterior corners of first tergite; first tergite covered with sparse, long, posteriorly-directed hairs that are longer than the distance between them and emerging from inconspicuous punctures; tergites 2-4 smooth, with a subapical row of hairs.

Type locality and associated information: collecting data on label of holotype: FL: Gilchrist Co., Route 47, 2.5 miles north of junction with Route 232, 9 February 1992, Lloyd R. Davis. Mandibles locked around petiole of nest queen of *Pheidole dentata*.

We deposited the holotype specimen in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Etymology: species epithet derived from *phoretos* (Greek), meaning "carried," referring to the phoretic relationship between the holotype and the nest queen of *Pheidole dentata*.

DISCUSSION

It is generally undesirable to describe a species of ant on the basis of a single queen. By convention and convenience, ant holotypes are generally workers. Workers, as well as males, may be very different from queens. In this case, no additional specimens have been found since the date of capture in 1992. Our intent is to alert the myrmecological community to this unusual species, in the hope that this exposure may lead to the discovery of more specimens and more natural history information.

Only a limited amount of speculation is justified, as only a single specimen is available. The generic placement of *S. phoretica* is based on its general resemblance to queens of such small *Solenopsis* species as *S. carolinensis* Forel and *S. abdita* Thompson. Resemblances include the two-segmented antennal club, smooth and shiny integument, the type and placement of setigerous punctures, and the shape of the petiole and postpetiole. If, however, the antennal club were three-segmented, rather than two-segmented, the spe-