

posterior margin well defined between the bases of antennae; antennal carinae produced posteriorly almost to the top of the head; eyes large. Thorax elongate, broad anteriorly; meso- and metanotum narrowing posteriorly; sutures almost obsolete; spines on posterior lateral angles of basal portion of metanotum slender, acute pointing divergently backwards, 1st node of pedicel longer than broad; 2nd node broader than long. Abdomen oval.

Length : W. 3-3.5 mm.

26. Genus *pheidole* Westwood, 1840.

*Pheidole* Westwood, 1841, *Arm. Maq. Nat. Hist.* 6 : 87.

*Pheidole*, Datta & Raychaudhuri, 1983, *AKITU N. Ser.* 56 : 1-14.

*Diagnostic characters* : Harvester ants, exhibiting great polymorphism; worker major forms have enormously large head with deep emargination dividing the head posteriorly almost into two lobes; mandibles strong, with or without teeth; antennae 12 jointed; eyes moderate or small, no ocelli; thorax convex; metanotum with a pair of spines or teeth; pedicel two-jointed; abdomen oval.

Key to the species of *Pheidole* Westwood Based on Soldiers

1. Club of flagellum of antennae formed of the apical four joints. . . . . 2
- Club of flagellum of antennae formed of the apical three joints . . . . . 3
2. Light reddish-brown, head enormous, clypeus not carinate . . . . . *smythiesi*
- Very dark brown, almost black; head proportionately much smaller, clypeus medially carinate . . . . . *bhavanae*
3. First joint of pedicel with a projection or appendix beneath . . . . . 4
- First joint of pedicel with no projection or appendix beneath . . . . . 5
4. Head posteriorly smooth and shining, not sculptured . . . . . *lamellinoda*
- Head posteriorly more or less sculptured . . . . . *malinsi*
5. Pro-and mesonotum not forming a single convexity; transverse mesonotal furrow and ridge or carina, or at any rate the later always present. . . . . 11
- Pro-and mesonotum forming a single convexity, transverse mesonotal furrow obsolete . . . 6
6. Head only as broad as long . . . . . *sagei*
- Head distinctly longer than broad . . . . . 7
7. Occiput smooth and shining . . . . . 8
- Occiput more or less sculptured . . . . . 9