

Diagnosis: (Figures 5, 6) Unicolorous black, tarsi, funiculus and mandibles reddish.

Head as long as broad with dense granulate sculpture; the area between frontal carinae and in front and back of the eyes with longitudinal striations; the area adjacent to the antennal insertions with pale pubescence; underside of head with long J-shaped hairs; antennal scape with dense short hairs; mandibles edentate, shining, with strong longitudinal striae and few sparse short hairs; clypeus with reddish lateral parts and longitudinal striations; eyes relatively large; occiput straight with abundant pairs of short hairs. Alitrunk sides with strong granulate sculpture whereas its dorsum with strong irregular sculpture; propodeal spines short and abrupt; propodeal spiracles well developed; the whole alitrunk dorsum with abundant short yellow hairs. Petiole and postpetiole with very fine granulate sculpture and abundant hairs. Gaster smooth and shining, with abundant short yellow pilosity.

Affinities: This species cannot be separated from Bolton's key in (1982) on the Afrotropical *Messor* or from Collingwood and Agosti's key in (1996) on the Arabian *Messor*. It resembles *M. muraywahus* Collingwood & Agosti (1996) which was described from Saudi Arabia in the following characters: the first funicular segment distinctly longer than the second; first gaster tergite hairy with long pale hairs; occiput has four or five projecting hairs at each side of the midline; genae below the eyes with few short projecting hairs. But differ from the mentioned species by the following characters: propodeum armed with two well developed and relatively long acute spines; subcephalic hairs more profuse forming a distinct psammophore; Petiole and postpetiole pilosity more abundant, eight pairs of hairs on the petiole and eleven pairs on the postpetiole.

Etymology: This species is named after the name of Mrs. Eglal H. El-Saadany (mother of the last author, Mostafa Sharaf).

Pheidole fadli Sharaf, n. sp.

Holotypes: (1 Major worker, 1 Minor worker), Egypt, Aswan, Nagh El-Shadeed, 8.III.2003; N: 24.05; E: 32.56; M.R.Sharaf; **Paratypes:** 12 minor workers, same series as holotype; 12 minor workers, Fiala temple, Aswan, 7.III.2003, N:24.05; E:32.56; M. R. Sharaf.

Type-locality: Egypt, Aswan, Nagh El-Shadeed, N: 24.05; E: 32.56

Major Worker (Figures 7, 8)