

weakly sculptured and shining, covered with hairs similar to those on petiole but narrower; ventral surface of postpetiole with well-developed spongiform lobe that extends throughout its entire length; lateral spongiform tissue overhanging ventral spongiform lobe; dorsal surface of first gastral segment smooth with some longitudinal basigastral costulae. *Color*: individuals light yellow to dark yellow. Hairs throughout body lighter than integument.

*Measurements*: holotype (and paratype): GL = 0.3 (0.32), HL = 0.34, HW = 0.27 (0.28), ML = 0.09, PL = 0.17, PPL = 0.12 (0.11), PW = 0.19 (0.18), SL = 0.16, TL = 1.42 (1.38), WL = 0.39 (0.36). Indexes: CI = 82 (79), MI = 26, PI = 47 (44), SI = 59 (57). (n = 2)

*Gyne and male*.—Unknown.

*Etymology*.—Named after Ms. Nor Faridah Dahlan in recognition of her expertise and hard work in support of Smithsonian ant research and in gratitude for her consistent good will and friendship. JS-C is deeply grateful to Faridah for all her help and care when he first arrived in the United States.

*Comments*.—*Pyramica dahlanae* n. sp. is most similar to members of the Nearctic *pergandei*-group, which includes *P. angulata* (M.R. Smith), known from the southeastern United States and Illinois, and *P. pergandei* (Emery), widely distributed in Canada and the United States. *Pyramica dahlanae* shares with those species the following characters: (i) mandibles short (MI 25–35) and, in frontal view, narrow and elongate, dentate only at the apical portion where they are in contact leaving an edentate gap between them; (ii) specialized mandibular dentition (alternating pattern of longer and shorter mandibular teeth); (iii) lateral clypeal margins, in dorsal view, extending beyond the line of the outer margin of the mandibles when closed; and (iv) preocular carina broad and conspicuous. *Pyramica dahlanae* differs from the species in the *pergandei*-group in four character states: (i) 10 mandibular teeth (15–16 in the *pergandei*-group), (ii) absence of triangular teeth on

the propodeum (present in the *pergandei*-group), (iii) absence of a well-developed spongiform tissue on the ventral portion of the petiole (present in the *pergandei*-group), and (iv) shorter antennal scape, SI 57–59 (SI 65–84 in the *pergandei*-group).

The mandibles of *P. dahlanae* are similar to those within the *pergandei*-group in that they contact in the apical third, producing a basal gap between the mandibles. This condition is different from the one found in species in the *ohioensis*-group, in which the masticatory margins contact through almost their entire lengths and in which the mandibles are triangular rather than elongate. Elongate mandibles can be found in the *gundlachi*- and *argiola*-groups, the latter an Old World group introduced into the United States (*P. hexamera* (Brown)). Mandibles in *P. hexamera* are highly distinctive with an elongate and spiniform apicodorsal tooth and two long preapical teeth (see Bolton 2000 for further information). Species of the *gundlachi*-group share with *P. dahlanae* the absence of a spongiform lobe on the ventral surface of the petiole but differ from *P. dahlanae* in: (i) mandibular length and morphology, (ii) the presence of a pair of triangular teeth or short spines on the propodeum, and (iii) the presence of pronotal humeral hairs and, in almost all species, a pair of laterally projecting apico-scrubal hairs.

*Pyramica dahlanae* may also be related to *P. paradoxa* Bolton, known from a single worker collected in Costa Rica. Both species share the absence of propodeal spines; however, *P. dahlanae* differs from *P. paradoxa* by the shape of the mandibles, and the head and mesosoma strongly areolate with the meso- and metapleuron smooth and shining. The head and mesosoma are mostly smooth and shining in *P. paradoxa*. Although *P. dahlanae* shares a number of character states with some members of the aforementioned groups, this species is not easily placed in any of the species groups defined by Bolton (2000).