

Mandibles striate (sometimes weakly so), with scattered punctures. Head densely punctate, the punctures separated by shiny interspaces at least on parts of the upper third of the head, and especially in the area immediately posterior to the compound eye, so that these parts of the head appear sublucid to shiny (in contrast to the predominantly opaque head of *P. elongatus*); head punctures (Figs. 23, 24) relatively coarse, 0.010 to 0.020 mm in diameter; mesosoma punctate to coriarius-imbricate, sublucid in the centre of the pronotal and mesonotal discs, and on the side of the pronotum, more opaque elsewhere; petiole, postpetiole, and gaster sublucid, with numerous fine piligerous punctures. Fine, erect pilosity (sometimes rather short) and appressed pubescence common over most of the body, including the mesosoma dorsum. Body medium to dark brown in color, the mandibles, antennae, and tarsi varying from concolorous to a paler luteous brown.

*Comments.*— This previously overlooked species ranges from Texas to Panama. It includes populations from Texas and parts of Mexico which I misidentified as *P. elongatus* in Ward (1985). The characteristic features of *P. caeciliae* are its small size, relatively dark color, and the sublucid punctate appearance of parts of the head and mesosoma. It is distinguished from *P. elongatus* primarily on the basis of this shiny appearance (all of their metric measurements overlap broadly, although *P. elongatus* averages larger in size, with relatively longer eyes – compare HW, HL and REL). Typically *P. elongatus* workers have a densely punctate and opaque head, while in *P. caeciliae* the punctures on the head are less dense, with (correspondingly) more extensive shiny interspaces between them, especially in the area immediately posterior to the compound eye (see Figs. 20, 21, 23); but both species vary considerably, and the extremes of sculptural variation come close to overlapping.

Among material examined in the present study, an old series of workers from Escuintla, Guatemala (Wheeler leg.) included both *P. elongatus*, *P. caeciliae*, and several individuals seemingly intermediate between the two. In western Mexico (Jalisco, Sinaloa), where *P. caeciliae* is apparently absent, some *P. elongatus* workers approach *P. caeciliae* in head sculpture. On the other hand in Costa Rica, where the two species are broadly sympatric, I have seen no intermediates among material referable to the two species.

*P. caeciliae* differs from *P. cubensis* by its smaller size (HW <0.62), relatively longer eyes (REL 2 0.72–0.81) (Fig. 28), broader fore femur (Fig. 29), and shorter petiole. While Mexican and Central American populations of these two species are rather distinct, Jamaican “*caeciliae*” partly bridge the gap between the two. These Jamaican individuals may, in fact, represent small *P. cubensis*.

The relationship of *P. caeciliae* to the South American species, *P. urbanus*, is even more problematic. The existing differences between the two are slight (see key to species) and not wholly diagnostic. More material, especially worker-associated queens and males from northern South America, will be needed to resolve this issue.

*Biology.*— *P. caeciliae* has been collected nesting in dead twigs of *Quercus* and *Prosopis* in Texas and northern Mexico. Costa Rican nest-site records include dead twigs of *Gliricidia sepium*, *Anacardium* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. Habitat records cover a broad range (tropical dry forest, mangrove, littoral vegetation, riparian forest, edge of second-growth rain forest, rain forest) but suggest a