

head, including the ocelli; some populations (e.g., northern Colombia, Curaçao) have workers which are lighter orange-brown in color, with contrasting dark brown hind femur, postpetiole, and gaster.

*Comments.*—It is curious that this species, one of the more common members of the *P. oculatus* group, has been unrecognized since its original description. Kempf (1961) raised *P. curacaensis* to species without being able to identify any material referable to it. In collections I have often found specimens of *P. curacaensis* misidentified as *P. oculatus*, to which they bear only a superficial resemblance, having a very different petiole shape (compare Figs. 7 and 10b) and head sculpture.

The key characteristics of *P. curacaensis* are its relatively large size, sublucid-punctate head, and relatively sharp lateral margination of the petiole (such that, in dorsal view, the maximum width of the petiole occurs at, rather than below, the dorsolateral margination). In lateral view, the petiolar node (Fig. 10b) presents a rounded profile, typical of the *P. oculatus* group. *P. curacaensis* is very closely related to the Central American species, *P. cretus*; for distinguishing features see the description above, the keys to workers and queens, and the discussion under *P. cretus*. At the lower end of its size range (worker HW 0.74–0.79), *P. curacaensis* may be confused with *P. cubaensis* (*s.l.*); the most useful distinguishing characters are the marginate petiole, more markedly concave occipital margin, and the more elongate funicular segments, of *P. curacaensis*. The infuscated patch around the ocelli also tends to be characteristic, but it is not invariably present. Finally, *P. curacaensis* tends to have a less elongate head, and a more slender fore femur, than *P. cubaensis*.

*Biology.*—I have encountered this species in a broad range of habitats, from tropical thorn forest and roadside vegetation to primary and second-growth rain forest. Nest-site records include dead twigs or branches of *Prosopis juliflora*, *Gliricidia sepium*, *Triplaris* sp., *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*, and unidentified bombacaceous and leguminous trees.

*Material examined* (BMHN, CASC, CDAE, GHPC, INPA, IZAV, KWJC, LACM, MCSN, MCZC, MHNG, MNHN, MZSP, NHMB, PSWC, UCDC, USNM, UWEM, WPMC, WWBC).—

BOLIVIA Beni: Blancaflor (W. M. Mann); Espíritu (F. Koya).

BRAZIL AM: "Amazonas" (Bates); Praia Grande, Rio Negro, Manaus (W. W. Benson); Res. Campina, Manaus (W. W. Benson); Rio Tarumá Mirim–Igapó (J. Adis); Tarumá-Mirim (J. Adis); BA: Salvador (W. W. Kempf); CE: Itapipoca (C. R. Gonçalves); GO: Jataí (F. M. Oliveira); MA: Bacabal (W. W. Kempf); MG: Arassuahy (Thiemann); Campo Grande (Gilbert & Müller); MS: Faz. Dr. José Mendes, Três Lagoas (Exp. Depto. Zool.); MT: Barao de Melgaço (W. F. Buren); Pluva, 15 km N I. de Taianá (C. R. F. Brandão); Sto. Antônio (c.u.); Utiariti, Rio Papagaio, 325 m (K. Lenko); PA: Belém (W. F. Buren; C. R. Gonçalves); Cach. Cajú (Sampaio); Igarapé-Açu (c.u.); Sôrre (c.u.); PE: Olinda (Reichensperger); RD: Porto Velho (C. R. Gonçalves); RN: Ceará-Mirim (W. M. Mann); RR: Boa Vista (C. R. Gonçalves); SP: Faz. Itaquerê, Bôa Esperança do Sul (K. Lenko); Faz. Itaquerê, Nova Europa (K. Lenko).

COLOMBIA Guajira: Maicao (W. L. Brown & C. Kugler); Serranía de Macuira, 6–8 km S Nazareth (W. L. Brown & C. Kugler); Huila: 10 km, SE Hobo (W. & E. MacKay); 12 km, S Neiva (W. & E. MacKay); 8 km, S Neiva (W. & E. MacKay); Colombia (W. & E. MacKay); Magdalena: 5 km SE Rio Frio, 100 m (P. S. Ward); Arroyo de Arena (F. M. Gaige); Gairaca, Parque Tayrona (C. Kugler); Rio Frio (Darlington); Rio Frio, 20 m (P. S. Ward); Santa Marta, 40 m (P. S. Ward); Meta: Carimagua, 370 m (M. Corn); El Castillo (W. & E. MacKay); Tolima: Ibagué (W. & E. MacKay).