

TRINIDAD Curepe (F. D. Bennett); Maracas Valley (N. A. Weber).

VENEZUELA *Aragua*: 2 km N Ocumare de la Costa (A. S. Menke & L. Hollenberg); *Bolívar*: Campamento Rio Grande, 250 m (P. S. Ward); *T. F. Amazonas*: P. N. Duida–Marahuaka, Culebra, 250 m (K. Jaffé); *T. F. Delta Amacuro*?: “Orinoco Delta” (N. A. Weber); *Zulia*: El Tucuco, Perija (R. W. Brooks *et al.*).

### *PSEUDOMYRMEX SUBTILISSIMUS* GROUP

#### Introduction

*Diagnosis (worker).*— Small species (HW 0.48–0.73), with subopaque, densely punctulate, and elongate head (CI 0.56–0.73); mandibles as in the *P. oculatus* group; frontal carinae distinctive; subcontiguous (FCI 0.023–0.066), raised anterodorsally, and merging insensibly into the clypeus (rather than fusing with the antennal sclerite) (Fig. 18), so that in lateral view they form a continuous curve with the median clypeal lobe (Fig. 19); the latter tectiform and protruding, with the anterior margin weakly flared and sharp-edged laterally, but not medially; in dorsal view, median clypeal lobe broadly rounded anteriorly; scapes very short (SI2 0.44–0.59); funicular segments II and III much broader than long (FLI 0.96–1.30); fore femur notably broadened (FI 0.44–0.60); petiole relatively low, long, and slender (PLI 0.54–0.75, PWI 0.48–0.68), without a differentiated peduncle and node, appearing dorsally flattened in lateral profile. Erect pilosity very sparse, lacking on the antennae, legs, and most of head and mesosoma; a characteristic pair of rather long setae present on the pronotal humeri, on the propodeum at the juncture of the basal and declivitous faces, and on the petiolar dorsum. Pubescence covering most of the body, exceptionally fine and inconspicuous in three of the four species. Palp formula: 6,3.

*Comments.*— This is a small, discrete group of species, uniquely characterized by the configuration of the frontal carinae and the clypeus. The elongate head, short scapes, flattened apedunculate petiole, and patterns of pilosity are also distinctive.

Features shared with the *P. oculatus* group include the protruding, tectiform, median clypeal lobe; palp formula of 6, 3; and elongate head and eyes. In addition preliminary observations suggest similarities in the male genitalia which, together with the shared worker characters, support the notion of a close relationship between these two groups.

#### Synonymic List of Species

*P. spiculus*, *sp. nov.* Mexico to Peru, Bolivia

*P. subtilissimus* (Emery, 1890). Nicaragua, Costa Rica

*P. tenuissimus* (Emery, 1906), *stat. nov.* Mexico to Peru, Brazil

= *P. culmicola* (Forel, 1912), *syn. nov.*

*P. villosus*, *sp. nov.* Brazil