

frequency of social parasites, both in new species discovered per year and overall percentage of ant species known to be parasitic, occurs in the north temperate zone and especially in the colder portions, where the smallest total ant fauna exists. However, this is also the region where the most diligent entomologists have concentrated their efforts. Thus an important question is raised: is the relative scarcity of social parasites known from the tropics a reflection their true proportionate rarity, or is it an artifact of the difference in collecting intensity? In other words, is the paradox real? Any new information on tropical parasitic species is therefore of more than average interest.

In the course of recent preliminary work toward a revision of the New World species of *Pheidole*, I surveyed several thousand series in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, and Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, originating from around the world and representing about five hundred species. Three of the tropical forms show evidence of being parasitic. I describe them below to put their existence on the record and to call attention to the excellent possibility for additional such discoveries in this large, exceptionally diverse genus.

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW AND LITTLE KNOWN SPECIES

Pheidole lanuginosa Wilson, new species

Diagnosis (queen). Body of "normal" *Pheidole* form but exceptionally small (e.g., head width 0.75 mm) and with short, rounded head. Also, the body surface uniformly smooth and dully shining, except for several longitudinal costulae between the eye and antennal fossa. Antennal scapes long, about equal in length to head width and in repose exceeding the occipital corners by approximately one-third their length. Pilosity moderately abundant over the entire body and mostly appressed or nearly so, with many of the hairs strongly curved and even hooked at the end, giving the ant a distinctive "woolly" appearance, hence the scientific name proposed for it here. An apparent social parasite of *Pheidole indica* Mayr.

Holotype queen. Museum of Comparative Zoology. An alate specimen, closely resembling the paratype queen illustrated in *figure 1*. Head width exclusive of eyes 0.75 mm, head length (anterior clypeal margin to occipital border) 0.78 mm, scape length 0.76 mm, eye length 0.31 mm. Mandibles well-formed, with a large apical and a large preapical tooth followed by 6 evenly spaced smaller teeth occupying the remainder of the masticatory border. Anterior clypeal border very feebly convex; entire clypeal dorsal surface also feebly convex. Hypostomal border evenly concave, lacking teeth. Antenna 12-segmented; the well-developed 3-segmented club occupies almost exactly half the length of the funiculus. With the exception of 2-3 parallel carinulae that run longitudinally between the inner border of the compound eye and the antennal fossa, the body is smooth to lightly shagreened and dully shining to subopaque over most of its surface. The pilosity is moderately abundant; the majority of hairs are relatively thick (compared with those of other *Pheidole* species) curving downward, and appressed to decumbent (parallel with the surface to rising 45° from the surface). Some hairs, such as those on the fore coxae, propodeal spines, and postpetiolar venter, are bent at right angles or hooked at the end. Color uniformly pale yellowish brown. This specimen is fully alate.