

antennal segments is not reduced (distinguishing *parasitica* from *acutidens*); the scutellum is not elevated nearly as much; the postpetiole is narrower; and the abdomen is much smaller relative to the remainder of the body.

*Holotype queen.* Museum of Comparative Zoology. An alate specimen, closely resembling the paratype illustrated in figure 3. Head width exclusive of eyes 0.60 mm, head length (anterior clypeal border to occipital border) 0.65 mm, scape length 0.84 mm, eye length 0.22 mm, length of masticatory border of mandible 0.10 mm. Anterior clypeal border feebly concave; dorsal surface of clypeus weakly convex. Hypostomal border evenly concave, lacking teeth. Antenna 12-segmented, but lacking a distinct club; the lengths of the segments from the funicular tip to and including the scape are 0.30, 0.14, 0.15, 0.15, 0.13, 0.10, 0.08, 0.06, 0.06, 0.07, 0.18, 0.84 mm respectively. The widths of the segments diminish gradually from the outermost funicular segment inward. Width of posterior postpetiolar border 0.40 mm, in striking contrast to the width of the posterior petiolar border, which is 0.18 mm. Four longitudinal carinulae are located between the eye and antennal fossa and two are on the lateral propodeal face; otherwise the entire body is smooth and moderately shining. A dense yellowish pilosity covers all of the body and appendages; the hairs are mostly decumbent to suberect (forming an angle near their base of 20-60° from the surface) and curving slightly downward; a few are either hooked, as on the occiput, or else sinuous, as on the petiolar node. Body uniformly medium brown, appendages light brown.

*Paratype queens* (fig. 3). Head widths range 0.57-0.62 mm. Overall closely similar in appearance to the holotype.

Chabua, Assam, India: holotype and 22 paratype queens, both alate and dealate (A.C. COLE, 24 July 1944). Calicut, Kerala, India: 1 alate and 1 dealate queen (A.B. SOANS, June 1969, "soil"). Both series were collected with minor and major workers of *Pheidole indica*.

The relationships of *P. parasitica*, like those of most other extreme parasitic ants, cannot be judged at this time with any degree of certainty. Even the generic placement is somewhat arbitrary, in view of the absence in the queen of the characteristic 3-segmented club. One possible clue is the persistence of carinulae on the genae (also found in *P. lanuginosa*) and lateral faces of the propodeum, which might be homologous to the rugae in the same locations in the host species *P. indica*.

#### *Pheidole microgyna* Wheeler

*Diagnosis (queen).* Resembling *P. minutula* Mayr but much smaller, close in size to the major worker caste, with head width only about 0.5 mm. Head short and rounded. Scape relatively long, in repose exceeding the occipital margin by a distance slightly greater than its own maximum width. Propodeum greatly flattened dorsoventrally, with basal and declivitous faces viewed in profile forming a single line broken by short blunt teeth that form 135° angles at their apex. Body surface almost entirely smooth and moderately to strongly shining.

*Lectotype queen (newly designated).* Museum of Comparative Zoology. A dealate specimen, closely resembling the paratype illustrated in figure 4. Head width exclusive of eyes 0.47 mm, head length (anterior clypeal border to occipital border) 0.65 mm, scape length 0.39 mm. Anterior clypeal border almost perfectly straight through most of its medial portion; dorsal surface of clypeus very weakly convex, almost flat. Hypostomal border deeply concave, lacking teeth. Antenna 12-segmented; antennal club