



Fig. 3. *Oxydris antillana*. Holotype worker: A, frontal view of head; B, side view of body.

the bulging, more-than-hemispherical eyes, and proportionately very large mandibles. Pronotum armed with two well-developed spines, a trait shared with members of the Old World *P. quadrispina* group but not with any known living New World *Pheidole* species. (Gr. *tethepa*, amazed; referring to the eyes).

*Holotype minor worker.* Head Width exclusive of eyes 0.76 mm, Pronotal Width 0.43 mm. Eyes with approximately 30 ommatidia. Head sparsely rugose to rugoreticulate with predominantly longitudinal orientation. Pronotum with several transverse rugae. Rest of dorsal surface of alitrunk evenly shagreened and subopaque.

*Paratype minor workers.* Two individuals poorly preserved but clearly sharing the diagnostic traits of the holotype.

Holotype and paratypes in a single amber piece from La Toca Mine, Dominican Republic.

#### DISCUSSION

Are *Ilemomyrmex* and *Oxydris* really extinct? If so, they are extreme exceptions in the generic ranks of the Dominican amber ants. It may be significant that both are small, eyeless, and possess narrow, sharp-toothed mandibles. In addition, *Ilemomyrmex* is distinguished by expanded frontal lobes and scrobes that together can mostly cover the antennae. In the living fauna these traits are characteristic of cryptobiotic, often scarce myrmicine ants that are among the last to be collected and recognized. Examples of such living genera that have been recently discovered or at least recognized as