



FIG. 1. Scanning electron micrograph of the uncoated holotype of *P. lama* in dorsal view.

pilosity is definitely more dense than in worker

and abundant shaggy pubescence almost obscures the underlying sculpturation.

Male and immature stages unknown.

#### REMARKS

Known distribution of the *viehmeyeri*-group is from the Moluccas through Papua New Guinea to the Solomon Islands and northern Australia (Kohout, 1990) but this could be underestimated.

With the description of *P. lama* it appears that the group was in the past more widely distributed and, perhaps, *lama* is an isolated relict. The undeniable similarity between *P. lama* and the *viehmeyeri*-group prototype shows that both probably derived from the same ancestral stock. As noted earlier (Kohout, 1990:506), most of this group exhibit variability in the length of pronotal spines even within the same population. Their complete absence and replacement by forward produced carinae, as seen in *lama*, demonstrates their variability to the extreme and can be interpreted as a product of an independent development of the species in isolation.

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#### LITERATURE CITED

- KOHOUT, R.J. 1990. A review of the *Polyrhachis viehmeyeri* species-group. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 28: 499–508.