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KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *PHEIDOLE*
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE) IN THE
UNITED STATES

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It is eight years since Creighton (1950) published a comprehensive revision of the North American ant fauna. In this work a key to the species and subspecies of the genus *Pheidole* north of Mexico was attempted for the first time, and with a high degree of success for a very difficult assemblage of forms. In the interval following the appearance of Dr. Creighton's book, however, some important changes in our knowledge of the ants in this group have been made and others are included in this report. Ten new taxa have been described altogether, ten have been placed in synonymy, and eight have been revised in one way or another in the light of recent data. The latter includes a complex tangle of species and subspecies associated with the ant now recognized as *Pheidole tepicana* Pergande (Creighton and Gregg, 1955), and certain adjustments in concepts concerning the members of the *flavens* group occurring in the United States. Two species new to this fauna have been found since 1950, and were recorded by M. R. Smith in the Catalog of Hymenoptera of America North of Mexico. One subspecies is being raised to full species rank.

In view of the large number of species of *Pheidole* (69) known from this part of the world at the present time, a key is definitely advantageous for anyone wishing to identify these ants, unless examples of all of them are in his possession or available museum collections. Owing to the extreme rarity of many of the forms, a complete collection is virtually impossible for most investigators, as some species are known from but a few specimens, and others are still known only from types. Furthermore, in view of recent advances in the nomenclature and knowledge of the distribution of the species, Dr. Creighton's treatment has been rendered somewhat less usable, and it is considered desirable to offer a revised key which takes these changes into account.