

The advantages of continuity with the work of previous authors, however, has led me to depart as little as possible from the key Creighton presented in 1950, for the most part adopting only those changes that are clearly imperative. One subgenus, namely *Ceratopheidole*, has been discovered new to the fauna of the United States, and this brings to three, the number of subgenera of *Pheidole* which it is now necessary to handle. For reasons already expressed by Creighton, and because two of the subgenera are represented in our area by only one or two species so far, it is not thought advisable to give separate tables for these species. As Creighton demonstrated, adequate determination of the species of *Pheidole* depends on samples consisting of both worker major (soldier) and worker minor castes, consequently both of these are freely used wherever necessary or unavoidable, and no effort is made to provide separate keys for each caste. In a limited segment of the North American fauna, involving just a few species and subspecies of *Pheidole*, it is perfectly possible to construct tables for the separate castes, but it is quite impossible to do so as yet for the entire continent.

I am under obligation to Dr. Creighton for the gift of numerous specimens, for the opportunity of studying material in his personal collection, and for valuable assistance in working out this revision. Dr. M. R. Smith and Dr. A. C. Cole have both been very helpful through the loan and gift of specimens critical to the study. Dr. Charles Ferrière, of Geneva, Switzerland, has made it possible for me to examine a number of type specimens of species originally described by Forel and Mayr. The contributions of all of these persons is sincerely appreciated and is acknowledged with pleasure.

The diagnostic plan which follows may be regarded as an effort to assemble the more recent data as well as the older data concerning the North American *Pheidole* fauna (not including Mexico), with emphasis on its taxonomy. Detailed treatment of the distribution of the various species has been omitted purposely, not because this is unimportant, but the information is still fragmentary for many forms and a greater abundance of records is needed for most of the species. Additional studies are contemplated which should yield a better understanding of the geographic distribution and the biology of this interesting group of