

insects. The group is widely spread in the tropics and subtropics over the world, occurring also in the southern Palearctic and in the Nearctic Regions. It is the latter which is of special concern here, of course, and of particular interest are the northern and the altitudinal limits of penetration of *Pheidole* in our territory. The ants are decidedly thermophilous, and only a few species actually reach those limits, the number of species increasing notably at low elevations and southern latitudes. These ants are also absent from the upper levels of many isolated mountain ranges in the west and southwest.

Key to the Species of *Pheidole*
(majors and minors)

1. Antennal club composed of four segments (Subgenus *Ceratopheidole*) 2
 Antennal club composed of three segments 3
2. Eyes of the minor with 10-12 facets in the greatest diameter; head subquadrate; dorsum of head, thorax, pedicel, and gaster somewhat shining; color reddish brown *grundmanni*
 Eyes of the minor with 8-10 facets in the greatest diameter; head longer than broad; dorsum of body subopaque; color black *clydei*
3. Gaster truncate or subtruncate at the base; species small to moderately large in size, usually dimorphic though occasionally polymorphic (Subgenus *Pheidole*) 4
 Gaster not truncate at the base; giant species, polymorphic; epinotal spines unusually long and sharp (Subgenus *Macropheidole*) *rhea*
4. Head of major cylindrical in cross-section and obliquely truncate in front, the truncation involving the clypeus, frontal area, and mandibles *lamia*
 Head of major not cylindrical in cross-section and not truncate 5
5. Scares of major reaching or surpassing the occipital angles 6
 Scares of major not reaching the occipital angles 7
6. Upper surface of the head of the major densely granulo-rugose and dull; epinotal spines slender and directed upward *grallipes*
 Upper surface of the head of the major with prominent longitudinal rugae, the interrugal spaces not granulose or at most very feebly granulose with the surface shining; epinotal spines thick at the base and directed posteriorly *desertorum*
7. Antennal scape of the major abruptly bent at the base so that the scape turns toward the midline of the head in passing to the antennal socket, the basal portion of the scape flattened, and as broad or broader than the distal portion 8
 Antennal scape of the major not abruptly bent at the base, not flattened or only slightly so, and the base never as broad as the distal portion of the scape 17