

and the damage is probably the result of drying. Both these specimens are unusually hairy, with many short hairs of equal length interspersed with longer hairs present on the head and thorax. In both specimens the mandibles are highly shining, without a trace of striae and with sparse, small punctures. In both specimens the antennal scapes are slender and the tip of the scape falls just short of reaching the occipital angle. In both specimens the head is slightly longer than broad (1.5 mm. \times 1.4 mm. in the undamaged specimen) with the sides gradually narrowed from the eyes to the insertion of the mandibles. The impression of the occiput is broad and quite shallow. In the undamaged specimen, and presumably in the other one also, prior to the distortion of the thorax, the mesonotum is rounded when seen in profile. The cephalic rugae are coarse and the granulations between them are unusually dense. It appears impossible at present to state what these two specimens are. They may be the medias of a polymorphic species related to *subdentata* or the majors of a dimorphic one related to *hyatti*. But there is no doubt about one thing; neither of them contributed anything to Pergande's description of the major of *vasliti*.

It seems to me that in dealing with this extraordinary tangle it is essential to seek a solution which does the least violence to the existing taxonomic structure of the genus *Pheidole*. If the two specimens marked by Pergande as the types of *vasliti* (U.S.N.M. No. 4488) had been the source of his description of the major of *vasliti*, his action would have been a plain case of lectotypic designation. But since these specimens were not described, Pergande's action in marking them as types can scarcely be considered as the designation of a lectotype. However, I see no reason why I cannot make such a selection, for I have briefly described these specimens in the foregoing paragraphs. I, therefore, designate as the lectotype of *vasliti* the undamaged specimen in the collection of the U. S. National Museum which bears the type number 4488. This action avoids any possibility of name changes in the case of Wheeler's *cocke-relli* or *tetra*. It is also true that it leaves us still in the dark as to exactly what *vasliti* is. But since we have managed to do pretty well for half a century with a totally fallacious view as to