

soldiers weigh against considering them as different species, so perhaps the queens of the new species found nests by entering the nest of some other *Pheidole* species. If so, then what is the need for the phragmotic posterior in the queen? Does she enter a circular burrow in a twig or in rotten wood in or near the host nest, and seal herself off from the host workers by phragmosis?

Whatever the truth proves to be, it will certainly make a fascinating story when the life history of the new *Pheidole* is better known. One interesting but inconspicuous feature is the presence of a few short, fine, outstanding setae ranged around the rim of the phragmotic face of the gaster (Fig. 6); undoubtedly these serve as "vibrissae", or sense hairs that inform the insect as to how snugly the plug is fitting into whatever passage or entrance it presumably blocks during some critical phase of adult life.

Pheidole embolopyx sp. nov. (Figs. 1-7)

Holotype soldier: TL (total outstretched length, including mandibles) 3.5, HL (length of head without mandibles) 1.03, HW (without eyes) 0.96, (Cephalic Index 93), WL (diagonal length of alitrunk in side view, without pronotal cervix) 0.91, scape L (chord to basal collar) 0.75, greatest diameter of compound eye 0.16 mm.

Form of head and body as in Figs. 1 and 3. Median sulcus of head reaching to frontal triangle; triangle and middle of clypeus smooth and shining, as are mandibles except for basolateral striation. As seen in perfect full-face view when held straight back, the scapes miss the apices of the occipital lobes by somewhat more than the width of the scape apex. The scapes appear more slender in some front views than they do in Fig. 3, and more curved towards the base (compare Fig. 1).

The alitrunk resembles those of *P. triconstricta* and *P. radoszkowskii*, with its deeply notched mesonotum and lesser constriction of the posterior pronotum along its suture with the mesonotum (indicated by black shading in Fig. 1). In dorsal view, raised but rounded humeri project from the middle of the pronotal sides. Propodeal dorsum sulcate its length, the sulcus wider behind.

Petiole slender, with a rather long anterior peduncle and antero-posteriorly compressed, almost squamiform node (W about 0.14 mm), with horizontal crest, vertical sides, and rounded corners as seen from behind. Postpetiole bun-shaped as seen from above, only about 1/3 wider than the petiole (W 0.20 mm) and its own length (0.14 mm); sides gently rounded in front, then nearly straight to posterior