

undulating country with sandy soil. Although the forest was very dark and did not appear to be seriously disturbed, we found few really large trees, and there were many spiny palms in the undergrowth. Probably the area had been selectively logged (26 August, 1962, W. L. Brown, Jr. leg.).

Workers and soldiers (labeled "BF") were also taken in leaf-litter berlesates from the vicinity of Igarapé Marianil during the same month, and the other paratypes (M-60) came from partially newly cut hillside rain forest near kilometer 50 on the western side of Amazonas Ruta 1 (24 August 1962, Brown leg.). The M-60 ants were nesting in a small spongy piece of rotten branch (without bark) on the forest floor. The soil was sandy, with thin litter, and the country looked very much like that at Igarapé Marianil, about 30 km to the west. The phragmotic nature of neither queen was noticed until after they had been captured, and so no particular note was made of their behavior or position within the nests.

Paratypes are deposited with the holotype and in the collections of W. W. Kempf and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Pheidole embolopyx appears to belong to the *triconstricta* group, but the color and sculpture of the soldier, as well as the narrowly-rounded occiput of the worker minor, will separate the new species from the several forms clustered around *P. triconstricta* and *P. radoszkowskii*. The types have been compared with all likely related species in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the W. W. Kempf (ex-Borgmeier) Collection, and several of the principal European ant collections, and are thought to be distinct. The queen is of course unique in form among *Pheidole* known from this caste, but for most New World members of the genus, the queen remains undescribed. After all is said and done, *P. embolopyx* may eventually end in the synonymy of some named species I have not taken into account. Certainly, the known described and undescribed New-World species of *Pheidole* number in the hundreds, and they remain unrevised. The biological interest of this particular species dictated that it should be described without further delay, regardless of the small risk that it might turn out to have received a name previously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due Dr. Djalma Batista and the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia, for hospitality and transportation during the collecting period at Manaus in 1962; Dr. Frances McKittrick for aid with the drawings; Dr. Walter W. Kempf, OFM, for searching his