

TAXONOMIC STUDY OF THE ANT GENUS *PHEIDOLE* WESTWOOD FROM GUANGXI, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)

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Abstract Thirteen species of the ant genus *Pheidole* from Guangxi, China are treated, among them three are described as new, i. e. *P. aphrasta* sp. nov., *P. longiscapa* sp. nov., *P. flaveria* sp. nov., one species is newly recorded in China, i. e. *P. feae* Emery; one species is raised to new status, i. e. *P. hongkongensis* Wheeler. A key based on major worker caste to the known species of the genus from Guangxi is given.

Key words Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Pheidole*, taxonomy.

The ant genus *Pheidole* was erected by Westwood in 1840, based on the type species *P. providens* (= *Atta providens* Sykes, 1835) from India. This genus is one of the largest genera in the family Formicidae, including 545 species (Bolton, 1995) found in all zoogeographical regions. Twenty-nine species, subspecies and varieties have been recorded in China, some of them have been proved to be synonyms. In this paper, thirteen species from Guangxi, South of China are treated, three species are described as new, one species is newly recorded in China, and one species is raised to new status. A key based on major worker caste to the known species of the genus from Guangxi is given. The holotypes are deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Shaanxi Normal University, and the paratypes and other specimens are deposited in the Department of Biology, Guangxi Normal University. The measurements and indices used in the paper follow Holldobler and Wilson (1990). All the measurements are expressed in millimeters, and the indices are in percentage.

Key to the known species of *Pheidole* from Guangxi

(based on major worker caste)

- 1. Head rugose or punctate throughout 2
 Head rugos anteriorly, shining posteriorly at least on occipital corners 12
- 2. Front below vertex flat, on the same plane with clypeus; Guangxi: Quanzhou County, Ziyuan County, Donglan County; Hunan; India, Burma, Java *P. capellinii* Emery
 Front below vertex not flat, more or less convex and not on the same plane with clypeus 3
- 3. Vertex with transverse impression, though indistinct sometimes, so that occipital corners above the impression being inclined forward 4
 Vertex without transverse impression, and occipital corners not inclined forward 8
- 4. Gaster longitudinally rugose throughout; all parts of Guangxi, Yunnan, Burma *P. yeensis* Forel