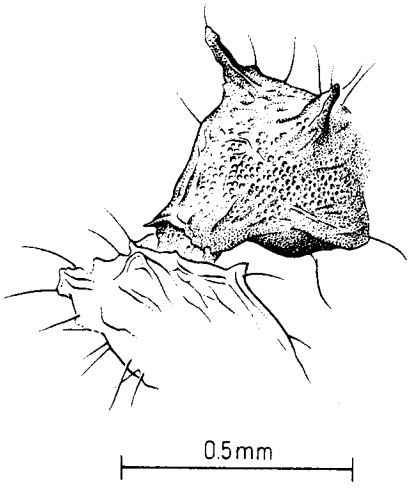

Fig. 9. *Pheidole tethepa* WILSON. Paratype minor worker. Partially oblique view of the prothorax and part of the deformed head showing the prothoracic spines, the microsculpture, and the gular spine. Drawing by ARMIN CORAY.

cephalic capsule and on potentially significant characters like the clypeal morphology and the frontal carinae raised upwards and projecting over the clypeus cannot be determined in a reliable way.

For the purpose of the comparison between *Pheidole primigenia* and *tethepa* the drawings of the latter species given here in Figs. 8–9 should account for most of the significant characters. The integumental sculpture of *tethepa* has not been completely represented in the figures because it is not properly visible in the original specimens. A minute punctation very similar to the one described and drawn for *primigenia* is present at least on parts of the integument of the *tethepa* holotype but, due to the difficulties in observation, only the sculpture visible on the prothoracic region of the paratype has been reproduced in Fig. 9. A slightly different appreciation of the broader reticulation superimposed to the microsculpture of both species may equally result from their different preservation conditions. My subjective guess is that the integumental structure of the two species is at least very similar. The following measurements (in mm) and indices may complete the redescription of *tethepa* (H = holotype, P = paratype):

Total length (mandibles included) 3.2 (P)–3.24 (H); head length (without mandibles) 0.64 (H); head width 0.72 (H); scape length 0.96 (H and P); mandible length 0.40 (H); trunk length 1.00 (P)–1.20 (H); length of the pronotal spines 0.12 (H); length of the propodeal spines 0.36 (P)–0.40 (H); petiole length 0.32 (H and P); postpetiole length 0.24 (H and P); Cephalic Index 112.5 (H); Scape Index 133.3 (H); Mandibular Index 62.5 (H).

Comparing the descriptions and the figures of the two species it appears that *Pheidole primigenia* differs from *tethepa* essentially in the length of the pronotal spines (twice as long in the former as in the latter). Another character potentially of great importance is the presence of two large gular spines visible in both *tethepa* specimens (Fig. 8, 9) and absent or very rounded in *primigenia*. Since the head of the *tethepa* type material has been deformed to a great extent I prefer to be cautious about the value of this difference which, if confirmed, would separate the two species by a dif-