



Fig. 11. *Pheidole lokitae* FOREL. Syntype minor worker from Sumatra, slightly oblique lateral view; integument microsculpture artificially omitted. Body posture uniformed to the one of Fig. 6. Drawing by ARMIN CORAY.

that an incapacity to answer this question, on the other hand, affects the biogeographic meaning of the Dominican fossils only to a minor extent.

##### 5. Biogeographic significance of the Dominican fossils: local extinction<sup>\*</sup> and trifling invasion

The Dominican amber fauna is often superficially reputed to have exclusively Neotropical affinities as one would expect a priori by judging from its geographical location only. BARONI URBANI (1980) described the first Dominican fossil member of the Australian genus *Leptomyrmex*, but this record has been doubted by WILSON (1985 b and 1985 c) who excluded it from his biogeographic analysis of Dominican amber ants (1985 c, 1988). In this 1985 analysis the Dominican amber ants are compared essentially with the Recent Neotropical fauna.

Later, however, WILSON recognized the presence of *Leptomyrmex* in Dominican amber (BARONI URBANI & WILSON 1987) but without changing his explanation as to the origin of the West Indian ant fauna. I have already written in the introduction that – in addition to the unexpected relationships between the Dominican amber and the Recent Australian faunas which are completely omitted from WILSON's ana-