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Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. from Suriname (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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Abstract: A new Pheidole species (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) is described from Suriname, namely Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. A key to the Pheidole species of Suriname is provided.

Introduction

There are five Pheidole species previously known from Suriname (Wilson, 2003): Pheidole cocciphaga Borgmeier, 1934, Pheidole coffeicola Borgmeier, 1934, Pheidole gibbata Borgmeier, 1934, Pheidole socrates Forel, 1912 and Pheidole terribilis Wilson, 2003. In this paper, Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. is described from Mount Kasikasima, Suriname, South America. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the University of Suriname, Department of Entomology, Paramaribo, Suriname.

Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. (Figs. 1-2)


Description (holotype major worker): Length 8.2 mm. Colour dark-brown. Total head length 3.7 mm, width 3.0 mm. Entire head carinulate, mandible length 0.7 mm. Eyes small. Antennae dark-brown, scape with short hairs. Mesosoma length 2.0 mm, width 1.1 mm, with short hairs. Petiole length 0.3 mm, width 0.5 mm. Postpetiole length 0.5 mm, width 0.7 mm. Gaster length 2.2 mm, width 2.1 mm, with short hairs.

Etymology: This species is named after my wife, Soesila Makhan.

Remarks: Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. is very similar to Pheidole arcifera (Santschi, 1925) from Brazil, but there is a difference in the shape of the carinulae on the lateral side of the head. All carinulae in Pheidole arcifera Santschi are broken shaped, while the whole length of the carinulae in Pheidole soesilae sp. nov. is unbroken.

Key to the Suriname species of Pheidole

1. Carinulae absent on the posterior side of the head, dense foveae present........Pheidole cocciphaga Borgmeier
2. Carinulae absent on the posterior side of the head, sparse foveae present ..........Pheidole terribilis Wilson
3. Carinulae absent on the posterior side of the head, foveae absent with two short setae......Pheidole coffeicola Borgmeier
4. Carinulae absent on the posterior side of the head, foveae absent with many long setae........Pheidole gibbata Borgmeier
5. Head with few short broken longitudinal carinulae..........................................Pheidole socrates Forel
6. Head with many carinulae .................................................................................Pheidole soesilae sp. nov.

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Reference


Fig. 1. Major worker holotype of *Pheidole soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus (scale line = 1.0 mm).

Fig. 2. Major worker holotype of *Pheidole soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus (scale line = 1.0 mm).