

***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)**

Holotype: major worker, Suriname, Mt. Kasikasima, 27.3.1996, coll. D. Makhan (only the holotype).

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.

Acknowledgement

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Reference

Wilson, E.O. (2003). *Pheidole in the New World: a dominant, hyperdiverse ant genus*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 1-794.

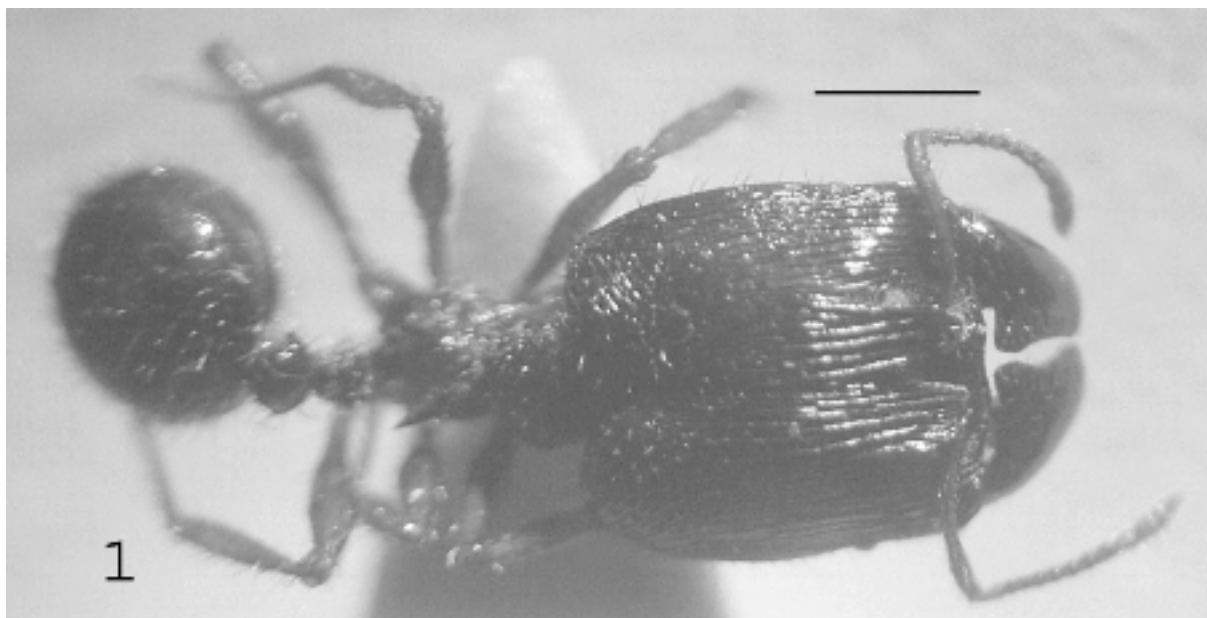


Fig. 1. Major worker holotype of *Pheidole soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus (scale line = 1.0 mm).

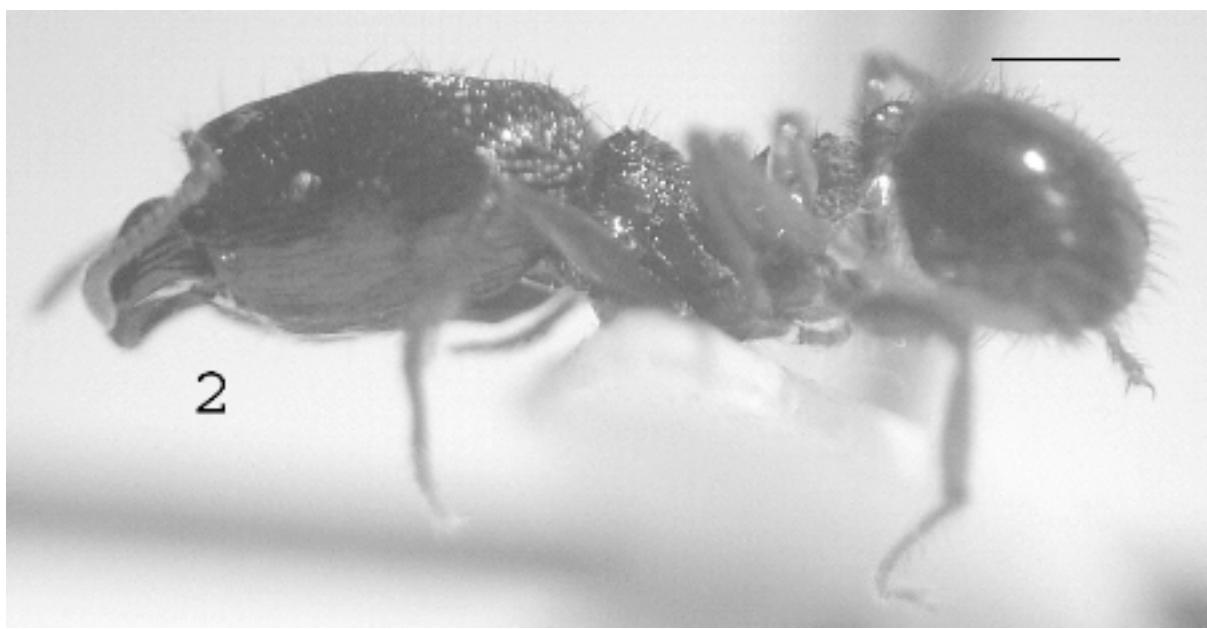


Fig. 2. Major worker holotype of *Pheidole soesilae* sp. nov. Habitus (scale line = 1.0 mm).