

**A NEW PHEIDOLE (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)
FROM FLORIDA¹**

A. C. COLE

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

***Pheidole sitarches littoralis* n. subsp.**

Holotype, major (Cole collection, No. E-138).—Differing from the typical *sitarches* and its other known subspecies in the following characteristics: It lacks the transverse delicate rugules on the occipital lobes of the head, giving the head a more shining appearance; the coarse longitudinal cephalic rugae are more irregular and form weak reticulations; the hairs on the occipital lobes of the head are shorter, stouter, and more numerous; the pronotum is more coarsely and irregularly rugose; a few fine rugae extend transversely between the bases of the epinotal spines; the thoracic hairs are more pointed and somewhat more delicate, being not at all clavate.

Paratype, minor.—Differing from previously described forms of *sitarches* in the posterior half of the head which is striatopunctate and in the much darker color of the entire body.

Type locality.—Lido Beach, Sarasota, Florida. The holotype, 59 paratype majors, and numerous paratype minors were collected by the writer, December 24, 1950.

Deposition of types.—The holotype is in the collection of the writer. Paratypes are to be deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, U. S. National Museum, American Museum of Natural History, and in the collections of Dr. W. S. Creighton and the writer.

Habitat.—Several colonies were found in unshaded areas of pure sand on the upper beach. Each nest was marked by a small flattened crater of sand approximately 3.0 cm. in diameter. The lower nest chambers were at a depth of about 7.0 cm.

Affinities.—After a cursory examination of both castes the writer suspected *littoralis* of being a member of the *pilifera* complex. Through the courtesy of the Museum of Comparative Zoology types of *sitarches* and its subspecies *campestris* and *soritis* were examined. The writer became convinced that the new subspecies is most closely related to *sitarches* and its known subspecies which had been the contention of Dr. W. S. Creighton when he had examined the specimens previously. The new subspecies seems to be much more closely related to *sitarches* than to *pilifera*, particularly in the sculpturing and contour of the head and in the shape of the postpetiole and the humeral angles of the prothorax. It seems to be more like the subspecies *campestris* than *soritis*. *Pheidole pilifera* and its subspecies have the occipital margin of the head more deeply excised, the head much less rugo-reticulate,

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