

Pheidole pilifera



ID Synopsis: Majors: Head massive. Unmistakable.

Minors: **(A)** 3 segmented antennal club.

(B) Mesonotum drops steeply to propodeum.

(C) Short spines that are almost vertical.

Similar Species: Minors may be confused with *Tetramorium* and *Stenamamma* species. Large eyes rule out *Stenamamma* and stepped down mesosoma rule out *Tetramorium*.

Habitats: Sandy soils in open habitats

Abundance: Locally uncommon.

Etc: One record from a cemetery. *Pheidole* is one of the “Harvester” genera. These ants have an affinity for harvesting and storing seeds.

Major’s block nest entrances from intruders with their big heads. The small and nimble minors help more with foraging. Majors may also be important in “milling” of collected seeds for consumption by the colony.

