



## A taxonomic revision of the *Pheidole roosevelti*-group (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Fiji

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### Abstract

This taxonomic revision treats a radiation of Fijian ants described here as belonging to the *Pheidole roosevelti*-group. Many of the species belonging to the group exhibit remarkable modification to the shape of their propodeal spines, mesonotums and heads. Seven species, five of which are described as new, are recognized: *P. bula* **sp. n.**, *P. colaensis* Mann 1921, *P. furcata* **sp. n.**, *P. pegasus* **sp. n.**, *P. roosevelti* Mann 1921, *P. simplispinosa* **sp. n.**, and *P. uncagena* **sp. n.** Descriptions and diagnostic keys are provided for the minor workers, major workers and queens. All species are illustrated with digital images, and their distributions across the Fijian archipelago are illustrated with a map. The group is compared to congeners known from the Pacific Island region with special attention given to species of the *Pheidole quadricuspis*, *P. quadrispinosa* and *P. cervicornis* groups. The biogeography of the group is briefly discussed. Preliminary morphological study suggests the group is monophyletic and most closely related to species of the *P. cervicornis*-group Emery from New Guinea.

**Key words:** Biogeography, Fiji, key to species, taxonomy, zoogeography