

DOLICHODERUS (HYPOCLINEA) OCCIDENTALIS n.sp.

Figs. 12 & 12a.

Worker. Length: 4.7-5 mm.

Black. Mandibles and legs brownish black.

Subopaque. Head and thorax coarsely punctate, slightly coarser on the thorax, almost rugose. Mandibles finely punctate. Gaster microscopically punctate.

Hair yellow, erect, moderately long and abundant throughout. Pubescence very fine and adpressed on the gaster.

Head one-fifth longer than broad, the occipital border feebly, the sides strongly convex. Frontal carinae parallel, longer than their distance apart. Clypeus convex above, the anterior border convex, with a feeble excision in the middle. Eyes convex, placed at the middle of the sides. Scapes extending beyond the occipital border by one-third of their length; first segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the second, third as long as the second. Mandibles with ten to twelve sharp teeth. Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum one-fourth broader than long, the anterior angle very bluntly produced forward, forming a concavity in front. Mesonotum convex above. Epinotum one-third longer than broad; in profile strongly convex, the posterior border inclined slightly upward, overhanging the declivity, the latter shorter than the dorsum, margined above and on the sides. Node rather slender, three times as broad as long, feebly concave in front, convex above and behind. Gaster longer than broad, concave in front below. Legs long and robust.

Hab.: Western Australia: Albany (J. Clark).

Near *D. scrobiculatus* Mayr, but readily separated from it by the form of the pronotum and node. From *D. nigricornis*, it differs by the colour, pilosity and the form of the epinotum and node.

IRIDOMYRMEX FLAVIPES Kirby.

Figs. 20 & 20a.

Hypoclinea flavipes Kirby, Result Horn. Exped. Zool. Suppl. 1, p. 206, 1896, ♀; Froggatt, Cat. Aust. Ants. Agric. Gaz., p. 22, 1905, ♀.

Iridomyrmex rostrinotus Forel, Rev. Suisse Zool., 18, p. 53, 1910, ♀, ♂, ♀; Emery, Genera Insect., fasc., 137, p. 26, 1912; Crawley, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 9, 16, p. 595, 1925, ♀.

The type of *Hypoclinea flavipes* Kirby, is in the collection of the National Museum. It has been compared with cotypes of *Iridomyrmex rostrinotus* Forel. They are identical.

The description given by Kirby for *H. flavipes* is not only useless, it is absurd.

The description of *I. rostrinotus* Forel, is very complete, but I may add that the colour of the legs varies from brown to yellowish red. I have given figures (20 and 20a) to supplement Forel's description. This figure is from the type of *flavipes*.

This ant has a very wide distribution throughout the central Australian region, being found wherever the Porcupine grass grows. It is known as the "Spinifex Ant."

The late Sir Baldwin Spencer gave a most interesting and complete account of this species in the Narrative of the Horn Expedition, Vol. 1, pp. 69-72, 1896.