

Declivity of propodeum glabrous and shiny, anteriorly with microsculpture and occasional carinulae immediately below mesonotal shield; propodeal spines robust and long, situated in upper propodeal half, in dorsal view distinctly diverging and arcuated inwards. Suture between dorsal alitrunk and propodeum situated in the angle where posterior mesonotal margin meets declivity. Promesonotal shield reticulate throughout, meshes ca. 40 - 70 μm wide, in lamellate areas rugose or unsculptured; with pilosity consisting of shorter decumbent hairs (80 - 120 μm) and longer outstanding ones (ca. 150 - 270 μm). Lateral sides of alitrunk roughly rugose to rugulose.

Petiole in lateral view widely triangular, tapering from base to crest, with anterior face meeting dorsum at an acute angle and forming a sharp low transverse lamellate ridge; dorsal face longer than in *M. puryi*, obliquely meeting posterior face in a wide angle; anterior petiolar face smooth, dorsum lateral sides and posterior face rugose to rugoreticulate; medioventral low lamella with anterior denticle, not as offset as in *M. puryi*. Postpetiole nodiform in profile, almost as high as petiole, all surfaces reticulate. Petiole and postpetiole with similar long, posteriorly directed hairs.

First gastral tergite, at least anteriorly, distinctly striate, changing into microreticulation posteriorly, with decumbent pubescence (80 - 120 μm) and outstanding erect setose hairs (150 - 220 μm).

Colour: uniformly ferruginous, frequently bicoloured with the head, or head and mesosoma darker.

Description of queen: Head as in worker, ventro-laterally bordered by distinct lamellate, interrupted carina; Clypeus laterally rugulose, with anterior clypeal margin denticulate. Eyes of medium size EYE: 0.42 ± 0.00 [0.42, 0.43], with 17 - 18 ommatidia in the longest row (REL: 0.25 ± 0.00 [0.25, 0.26]); OD: 0.29 ± 0.01 [0.29, 0.30]. Pronotum reticulate throughout, lateral sides posteriorly angulate. Mesonotum rugulose reticulate, somewhat triangularly and more narrowly inserted into pronotal rear border (Fig. 3). Propodeum anteriorly rugulose, propodeal spines depressed and apically rounded (Bobbin Head) or acute and narrow (Kurralinga). Petiole in lateral view with anterior face straight and glabrous, with similar low transverse lamellate crest as in worker. Postpetiole as in worker. Gaster entirely microreticulate. Antennal club and dorsum of head fuscous, remainder of body uniformly ferruginous.

General Distribution (Fig. 12): Widely distributed in southern parts of Australia, reaching Townsville in the north-east.

Biology: No details upon the biology of the species are known. Label data make it likely that *M. curvispina* nests in the ground. This corresponds with TAYLOR & BROWN (1985).

Meranoplus puryi FOREL, 1902 (Figs. 4 - 6, 10, 11, 13; Tab. 1)

Meranoplus puryi FOREL, 1902: 456 (worker). - TAYLOR & BROWN 1985: 68, TAYLOR 1987: 39 (catalogue); TAYLOR, 1990: 39 (= senior synonym of *curvispina* FOREL, 1910), BOLTON 1995: 251 (catalogue), SHATTUCK 1999: 143 (listed). - Two syntype workers (MHNG), mounted together on one pin, were studied. The top specimen is here designated as **lectotype**: "Typus [printed on red label] \ M. Puryi ♀ type Yarra district Victoria Australie \ Sp. M. Puryi Forel \ Coll. Forel." (Fig. 11). The second specimen (MHNG) and one further specimen in ANIC, "puryi R. W. Taylor Accession 68. FOR. 106"