



Fig. 13: Distribution of *M. puryi*.

**General distribution** (Fig. 13): Known from the type locality (Victoria) and New South Wales.

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

### Discussion and differential diagnosis

The taxa treated here are only two of a whole set of smaller species, which seem to belong to one or several groups of related forms. Since many of these still await description (Schödl, in prep.), I refrain from constituting a species group. However, following the key to species groups as presented by ANDERSEN (2000) leads to "miscellaneous groups".

Although superficially similar, *Meranoplus curvispina* and *M. puryi* can easily be distinguished from each other by several traits: shape of anterior clypeal margin: anterior clypeal margin produced into apron consisting of stout apically rounded denticles in *M. curvispina*, anterior margin entire in *M. puryi*; shape of promesonotal shield: appendages of promesonotal shield more distinctly developed in *M. curvispina*, shield somewhat more elongate in *M. puryi*; petiolar structure: petiole distinctly narrower