

Thompson & Yeates); Mt. Mort, Grandchester (Parlett,H.); Mt. Tamborine, Cedar Ck NP (Taylor,R.W.); Mt. Tamborine, Cedar Ck. Falls (Taylor,R.W.); summit Mt. Coot-tha, Brisbane (Lowery,B.B.); Tamborine Mt. nr. Witches Falls (Kohout,R.J.); Wallum, Cooloola (Room,P.M.). **South Australia:** 3mi. E Kongorong (Lowery,B.B.). **Victoria:** 10mi. N Nelson (Lowery,B.B.); 12km E Warburton (Newton,A. & Thayer,M.); Ferntree Gully (T.G.); Gellibrand (Clark,J.); Glenaladale Natl. Pk.; Grampians [The Grampians]; Melbourne; Mt. Buffalo NP, Eurobin Ck. (Newton,A. & Thayer,M.); nr. Baxter (Boulton,A.); Seville (Greaves,T.); Spring Vale [Springvale] (Greaves,T.).

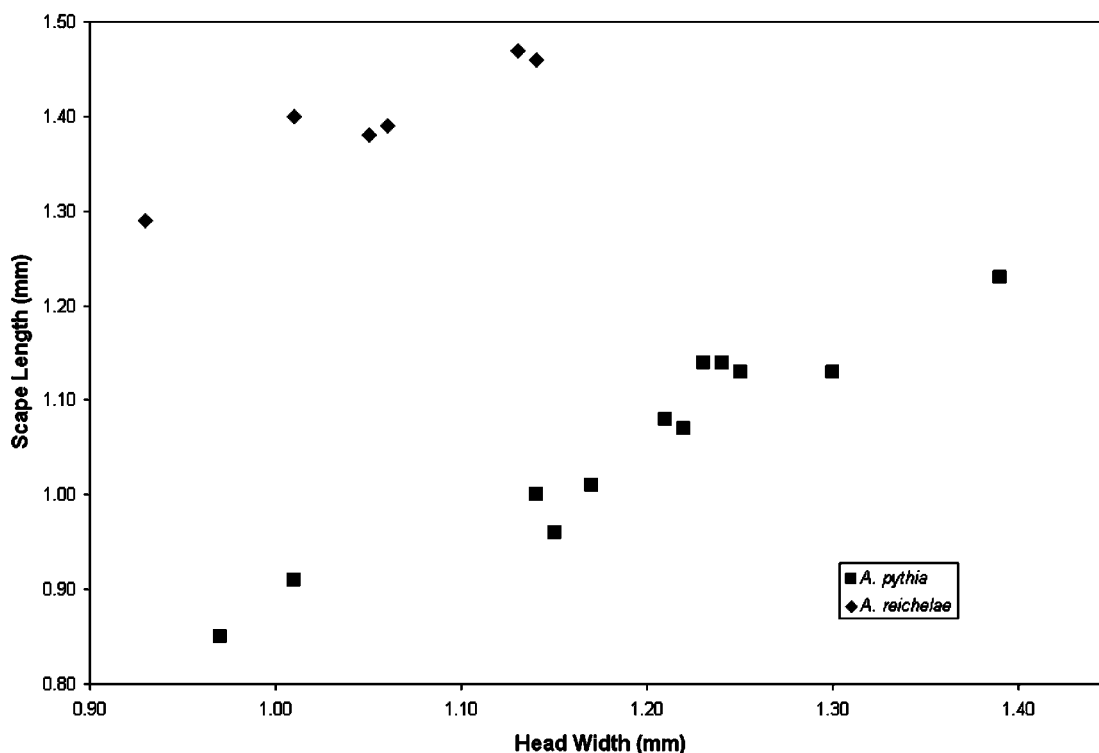


FIGURE 23. Scape length versus head width measurements for *A. pythia* and *A. reichelae*.

Comments. This is one of the most commonly encountered species of *Aphaenogaster* in Australia. It occurs in a wide range of habitats from swampy coastal scrub, wet sclerophyll and rainforests through to dry sclerophyll and *Callitris* woodlands. Nests in sandy soil are often highly visible with large, funnel-shaped entrances while nests in firmer soils are less obvious with low, scattered soil around entrances. Nests are also found under rocks or other objects on the ground. Activity around nests is generally restricted to a few workers excavating soil or defending the nest entrance. Foraging activity seems to be limited with workers foraging singly and primarily near the nest. This species has an extensive literature, including the following: Banks (1916) (association with mites), Crawley (1922a: 122) (biology), Barrett (1927) (habits, as *A. longiceps* [sic]), Clark (1929: 121) (distribution), Clark (1934: 58) (distribution), Smith and Atherton (1944: 4) (biology, economic importance), Sloane and Sloane (1964) (nesting biology), Berg (1975) (seed dispersal), Imai, Crozier and Taylor (1977) (karyotype), Greenslade and Thompson (1981) (biology), Humphreys (1981) (relation to soils), Humphreys and Mitchell (1983) (relation to soils), Cowan *et al.* (1985) (relation to soils), Andersen (1988a) (relation to fire), Anderson (1988b) (relation to plants), Hughes and Westoby (1992a) (seed dispersal), Hughes and Westoby (1992b) (seed dispersal), Nicholls and McKenzie (1994) (distribution pattern) and York (1994) (relation to fire).

Emery's (1921) *A. flava* is here treated as a junior synonym of *A. longiceps*. *A. flava* was established by indication based on a male from Queensland and figured in Emery (1914). Emery (1914) presented two figures, one identified as *longiceps* from Queensland and the other as *longiceps ruginota* from Sydney. Emery