

irregularly sized striations. Erect hairs on mesosomal dorsum tapering to sharp points. Propodeal spines short. Dorsal surfaces of propodeum and propodeal spines connected through a gentle concavity (so that the base of each spine is at approximately the same level as the dorsal surface of the propodeum). Petiolar node (in dorsal view) wider than long.

**Measurements.** Worker (n = 12). CI 83–93; EI 15–22; EL 0.16–0.22; HL 0.97–1.39; HW 0.85–1.23; ML 1.34–1.94; MTL 0.75–1.13; SI 107–122; SL 1.02–1.40.

**Material examined** (in ANIC unless otherwise noted). **New South Wales:** Glenugie SF., 15mi.S Grafton (Lowery,B.B.); Macksville (Lowery,B.B.); Macksville, Warrell Ck. area (Lowery,B.B.); Murwillumbah (Lowery,B.B.); Port Macquarie (Pullen,R.); Round Mountain, Kingscliff (Lowery,B.B.); Terranora Lakes Golf course (Seymour,G.J.). **Queensland:** 10km W Herberton (Lowery,B.B.); 10mi. S Atherton; 12km W Paluma (Lowery,B.B.); 15km SbyE Byfield (Taylor,R.W. & Weir,T.A.); 18km S Banana (Lowery,B.B.); 20km N Cairns (Lowery,B.B.); 20km S Eton (Lowery,B.B.); 6km SSE Eungella (Taylor,R.W. & Weir,T.A.); 6mi. SW Karara (Greaves,T.); 8km W Tully, nr. Rocky Ck. Bridge (Lowery,B.B.); Atherton (A.H.W.); Bauple, State Forest 958 (Vanderwoude,C.); Brookfield (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Bruce Hwy, 5km N Aphis Ck., 54km N Marlborough (Lowery,B.B.); c. 8km W Paluma (Taylor,R.W. & Feehan,J.E.); Cedar Creek, Tamborine Mt. (Brown,W.L.); Clohesy River (Greaves,T.); Como Scarp (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Cooloola, Chalamban [Chalamban] (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Cooloola, Como Scarp (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Cooloola, Noosa R. (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Egger Farm Paddock, Yungaburra (Cutter,A.D.); Gore (Lowery,B.B.); Herberton (Lowery,B.B.); Highvale (Marks) (Barrett,J.H.); Kirrama Forest (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Koah (Wheeler,W.M.); L. Eacham NP (Taylor,R.W.); Mackay (Turner,G.); Mareeba (Lowery,B.B.); Millstream NP nr. Ravenshoe (Lowery,B.B.); Mt. Mort, Grandchester (Greaves,T.); Noosa River, Cooloola Natl Pk (Greenslade,P.J.M.); Obi Obi Ck., Blackall Ra. (Taylor,R.W.); Scraggy Pt., Hinchinbrook Is. (Ward,P.S.) (ANIC, PSWC); St. Lawrence (Cudmore,F.A.); Thurling Farm, Malanda (Cutter,A.D.); Tully (Lowery,B.B.); Wallaman Falls (Lowery,B.B.); West Coorey [Cooroy West]. **Papua New Guinea:** Bulolo (Lowery,B.B.); Wau, goldfields (Lowery,B.B.).

**Comments.** This is a fairly wide ranging species and the only species to occur outside Australia (in Papua New Guinea). Its main range is coastal northern New South Wales north through Queensland, with a smaller disjunct population in southern PNG (Fig. 30). Given this wide distribution and the broad range of habitats in which it is found (see below), it is curious that in Australia this species occurs in three fairly narrow regions separated by areas where it is apparently absent. There is no morphological evidence to indicate that more than one species is involved, yet this distribution pattern might suggest otherwise. Additional investigation into this pattern may be well rewarded.

*Aphaenogaster pythia* occurs in a wide range of habitats including coastal scrub, dry sclerophyll, suburban parks and pastures, wet sclerophyll and rainforests. Nests are either in the open with large funnel-shaped entrances or under rocks or logs on the ground. The biology of this species was discussed by Hitchcock (1958) and its control by Hitchcock (1962).

The nomenclatural history of this species is rather complex. Forel (1915) stated that there were two species of Australian *Aphaenogaster*, *longiceps* and *ruginota*, and listed differences between them. He then said “Sollte der Typus von Smith irgendwo zum Vorschein kommen und sich gegen meine Annahme als mit *ruginota* und nicht mit Mayr’s Typen identisch erweisen, schlage ich für letztere den Namen *pythia* n. sp. vor.” [“Should the type of Smith appear somewhere and turn out identical, against my assumption, with *ruginota* and not with Mayr’s [1862] types, I suggest for the latter the name *pythia* n. sp.”] (Mayr (1862) had described queens and males under the name *longiceps* from four localities, Gayndah, Peak Downs, Rockhampton and Sydney.) To resolve the identity of *longiceps* Wheeler (1916) sent samples to H. Donisthorpe (British Museum (Natural History), London) for direct comparison with the Smith type of *longiceps*. Wheeler (1916) reports that “[Donisthorpe] writes me that [Smith’s] type is undoubtedly what Forel calls *ruginota*, and not what he calls *longiceps*. Hence *ruginota* becomes a synonym of *longiceps*, Smith, and the rarer Queensland