

altered forest, adjacent to an open Cerrado. It is not easy to imagine the original coverage, but judging from the surrounding environment, it seemed to us that this was originally a full grown Cerrado, also called “Cerradão”. From the same group of samples, we collected, for the first time in central Brazil, workers of the worldwide tramp ant *Monomorium pharaonis* Linnaeus.

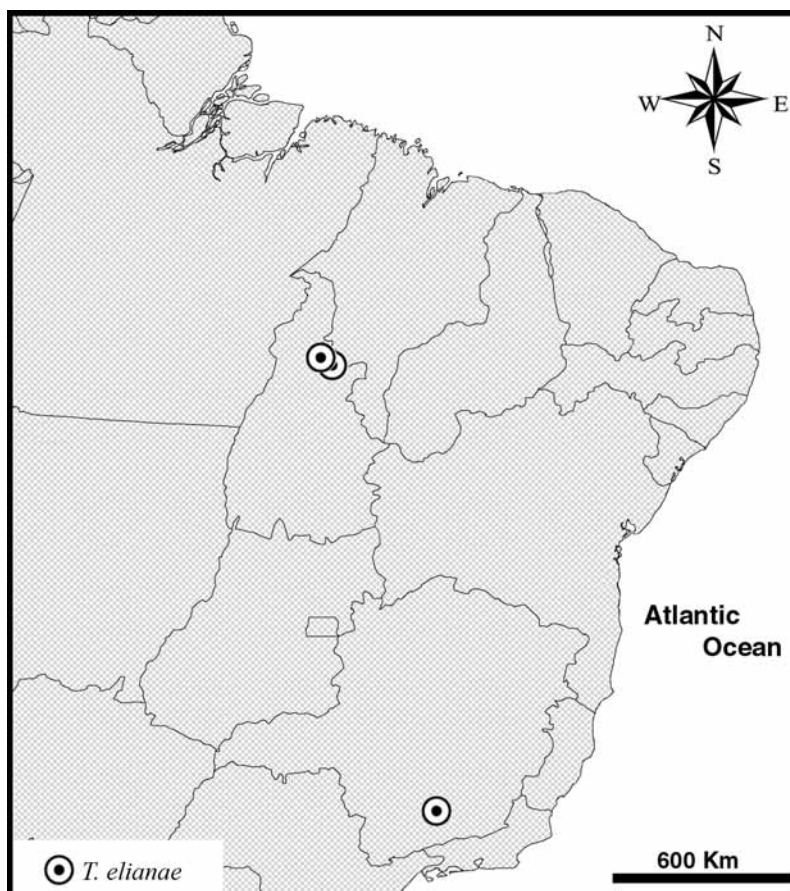


FIGURE 11. Distribution map of *Tropidomyrmex* gen. n.

Discussion

Tropidomyrmex can be easily distinguished from all other ant genera by the bilobed subpostpetiolar process, hence the generic name we chose for this ant. Bolton (2003) diagnosed the solenopsidine tribe group, which includes Solenopsidini, Stenammini and Adelomyrmecini (Bolton *et al.*, 2006), as having, primarily, the clypeus constricted posteriorly, with median portion narrowed and elevated, without an isolated longitudinal carina, and the ventral surface of the metathorax simple. From the combination of characters that define Solenopsidini according to Bolton (2003), *Tropidomyrmex* does not have the short subtriangular mandibles, the dental count is different from 2–6, the clypeus is not bicarinate, and the maximum exposure of toruli is posterior to the maximum width of frontal lobes, characters that may vary in some genera. Still, according to Bolton (*op. cit.*), most solenopsidine genera have a single stout median clypeal seta. Interestingly, although adult females of *Tropidomyrmex* do not have a stout median clypeal seta, the larvae of *T. elianae* clearly present a median seta accompanied by two similar ones at the anterior clypeal margin (Fig. 8B). The male has a row of setae at the anterior clypeal margin, although the median seta is not particularly different or stouter than the others in the row (Fig. 6A). Solenopsidines in general have a strongly differentiated antennal club of 2–4 segments. The funicular segments of *Tropidomyrmex* increase quite regularly in size until the obviously enlarged apex, different from all other solenopsidine or even stennamine ants; even the socially parasitic