

5. Posterior region of pronotum (immediately anterior of the pro-mesonotal suture) in profile rising above the mesonotum in a short, strongly convex arch (Fig. 4); lateral regions of head often with at most very weak purplish iridescence 6
- Posterior region of pronotum (immediately anterior of the pro-mesonotal suture) in profile rising above the mesonotum in a broad, uniform, weakly convex arch (Fig. 5); lateral regions of head with well developed iridescence (usually purple or blue) 8
6. Erect mesosomal setae pale; posterolateral region of first gastral tergite with less than 6 appressed setae; known only from New South Wales, southern Queensland and South Australia *I. spodipilus*, sp. nov.
- Erect mesosomal setae dark (sometimes superficially appearing pale when viewed against a lightly-coloured background); posterolateral region of first gastral tergite with more than 8 appressed setae; known only from northern Australia north of about 24°N. 7
7. In full face view, lateral margin of head with more than about 4 erect or suberect setae, and often with more than 10 *I. reburrus*, sp. nov.
- In full face view, lateral margin of head generally without erect or suberect setae, but always with less than 5 *I. sanguineus* Forel
8. Head light yellow-red, distinctly lighter in colour than the pronotum; known only from Queensland north of approximately Rolleston *I. spadius*, sp. nov.
- Head reddish brown, at most only slightly lighter in colour than the pronotum; widespread in southern Australia with one species in southern Queensland 9
9. Head and pronotum (or sometimes head only) lighter in colour than mesothorax *I. purpureus* (Smith)
- Head and pronotum similar in colour to mesothorax 10
10. Head and mesosoma dark reddish brown to black; head often with strong blue iridescence *I. lividus*, sp. nov.
- Head and mesosoma reddish brown; head with purple iridescence (some lightly coloured specimens of *I. lividus* will key here, see Diagnosis for discussion of these specimens) *I. greenladei*, sp. nov.

***Iridomyrmex bigi*, sp. nov.**

(Fig. 9)

Iridomyrmex sp. 24 (ANIC).—Halliday, 1978: 159.

Material Examined

Holotype. Worker, Northern Territory, Henbury Crater, 24°35'S., 133°09'E., 22.i.1991, S. O. Shattuck (SOSC #2097) (ANIC, type no. 7969).

Paratypes. 19 workers, same data as holotype; 15 workers, same data as holotype except SOSC #2101 (ANIC, BMNH); 17 workers, same data as holotype except SOSC #2104 (ANIC, MCZC).

Other material (in ANIC). **Queensland:** Millungera Station (TG); 16 miles SSW. of Gregory Downs Homestead (JED); 6 miles WNW. of Gilliat (JED). **Western Australia:** Cue (C. T. Mercovich); Meekatharra, golf course (C. T. Mercovich).

Worker Diagnosis

Eyes large (EL > 0.50 mm, REL > 0.27); mesosoma reddish brown; scapes only very weakly bicoloured.

Description

Iridescence between compound eyes purple or bluish purple and on lateral region of head (between compound eye and insertion of mandible) absent to weak purple. Pigment colour of mesosoma, coxae, legs and petiole reddish brown; head similar to mesosoma or slightly lighter in colour; lateral region of second gastral tergite shiny and without or with very weak green iridescence. Head pilosity (in full face view) present on occipital margin and with 2–6 setae near mandibular insertion. Ocelli present as either distinct cells or slight cuticular depressions. Ventrolateral pronotum with at most four erect setae. Mesosomal setae pale. Pilosity on first gastral tergite reduced. Anterodorsal region of propodeum flat.