

of Capella (JED); Conjuboy Ck, E. of Einesleigh (BBL); Emerald (J. Hayes); Millstream Falls Natl Pk (BBL); Mt Garnet (BBL); vic. Mt Garnet (RWT).

Worker Diagnosis

Head light yellow-red, much lighter than mesosoma; superficially similar to some *I. galbanus* (similarly coloured mesosoma with lighter-coloured head) but differs in lacking green iridescence on the lateral regions of the head, and in distribution (Queensland rather than South Australia and Victoria).

Description

Iridescence between compound eyes and on lateral region of head (between compound eye and insertion of mandible) absent to very weak purple. Pigment colour of mesosoma dark reddish brown; head light yellow-red (often slightly darker dorsally); coxae and legs similar in colour to, or slightly lighter than, mesosoma; petiole slightly darker than mesosoma; lateral region of second gastral tergite moderately shiny to shiny and with green and/or purple iridescence. Head pilosity (in full face view) abundant on occipital margin, and with 2–6 pale setae near mandibular insertion. Ocelli absent. Ventrolateral pronotum with 2–5 erect setae. Mesosomal setae with dark pigment (sometimes translucent and appearing pale when viewed against a lightly coloured background). Pilosity on first gastral tergite abundant, sometimes reduced anteriorly. Anterodorsal region of propodeum varying from flat to weakly arched.

Measurements

Holotype. CI 0.95; EL 0.34; EW 0.22; HL 1.95; HW 1.84; ML 0.99; PnL 0.95; PpL 1.00; REL 0.18; SI 0.95; SL 1.75.

Worker ($n=12$). CI 0.89–0.95; EL 0.34–0.38; EW 0.20–0.23; HL 1.83–2.11; HW 1.66–1.99; ML 0.89–1.07; PnL 0.90–1.05; PpL 0.93–1.07; REL 0.19–0.21; SI 0.91–1.05; SL 1.64–1.81.

Comments

There are a limited number of collections of *I. spadius* from two disjunct areas in Queensland (Fig. 17). The northern population occurs approximately between Ravenshoe and Einesleigh, whereas the southern population is in the vicinity of Emerald. No collections of this species have been made between these two areas, which are separated by about 550 km.

Two other species of the *I. purpureus* group show a distributional limitation in this same region. *I. sanguineus* is distributed across northern Australia (Fig. 16) and its southern limit in Queensland is approximately the same as that for *I. spadius*. However, even though *I. sanguineus* is widely distributed to the north and along the coast almost as far south as Rockhampton, it is not known to occur in the inland area between the northern and southern *I. spadius* populations.

I. purpureus is found in south-eastern Australia north to about Mackay (Fig. 13), and its northern limit includes the range of the southern *I. spadius* population. This northern boundary is very similar to that found in both *I. sanguineus* and *I. spadius* in this region. Thus three species of meat ants show approximately the same distribution pattern in east-central Queensland.

Etymology

The specific name, derived from Latin, describes the chestnut-brown body colour.

Iridomyrmex spodipilus, sp. nov.

(Fig. 18)

Iridomyrmex 'orange' or 'O'.—Greenslade and Halliday, 1982: 249.