

Measurements

Holotype. CI 1·03; EL 0·57; EW 0·31; HL 1·74; HW 1·79; ML 0·92; PnL 0·95; PpL 0·90; REL 0·32; SI 0·84; SL 1·50.

Worker (n=4). CI 1·03–1·05; EL 0·54–0·58; EW 0·30–0·32; HL 1·62–1·81; HW 1·71–1·87; ML 0·92–0·96; PnL 0·89–1·01; PpL 0·85–0·94; REL 0·31–0·32; SI 0·81–0·84; SL 1·38–1·54.

Comments

Iridomyrmex variscapus is most similar to *I. bigi* in having large eyes and a broad head. It differs in being lighter in colour and in having a distinctly bicoloured scape. The only known workers were collected in the eastern Simpson Desert (Fig. 9) from a nest in very hard interdune soil and with a single entrance, and were crepuscular (P. J. M. Greenslade, personal communication).

Etymology

The specific name describes the bicoloured scape.

Iridomyrmex viridiaeneus Viehmeyer, stat. nov.

(Fig. 19)

Iridomyrmex detectus var. *viridiaeneus* Viehmeyer, 1914: 41.

Iridomyrmex purpureus viridiaeneus.—Greenslade, 1974a: 247.

Iridomyrmex 'small black' or 'SB'.—Greenslade and Halliday, 1982: 249.

Material Examined

Types. Seven worker syntypes, Killalpaninna, South Australia [3 individuals in NHMB (Baroni Urbani 1977: 75); 1 individual in ANIC; 1 individual in USNM; 2 individuals in MHNG].

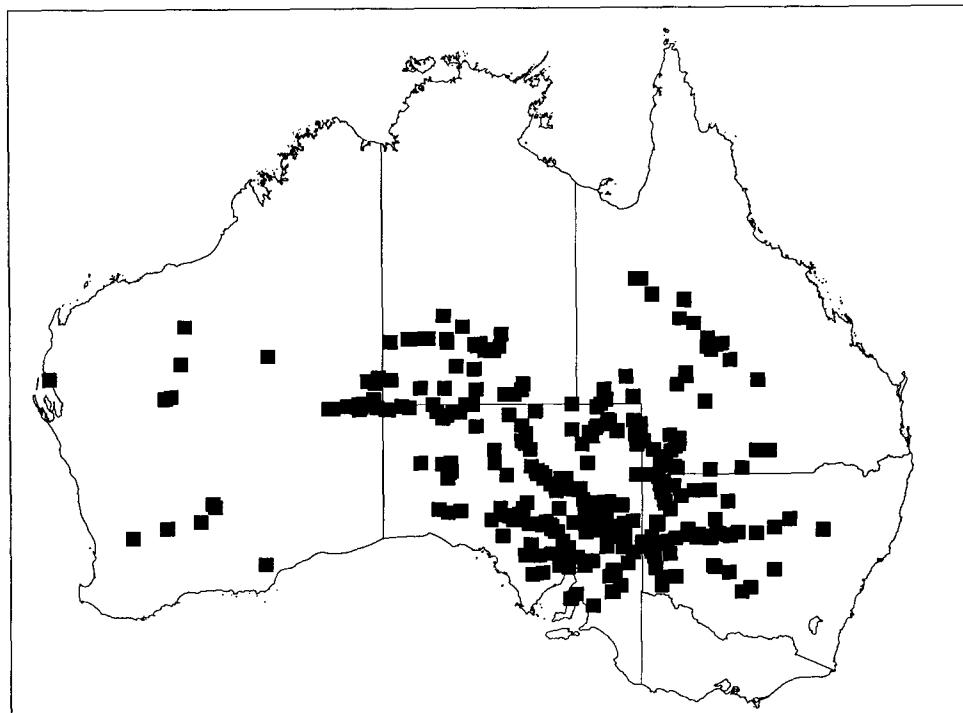


Fig. 19. Distribution of *I. viridiaeneus* specimens examined during this study.