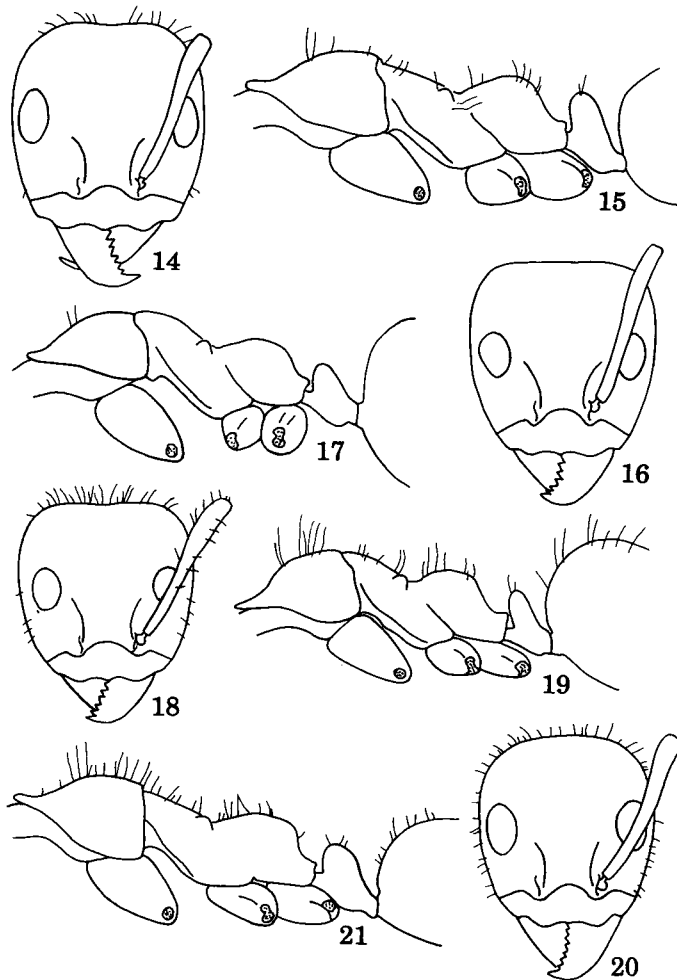


Norfolk Islands and those on continental Australia and Tasmania. Additionally, the Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island populations are very similar, more so than either is to mainland populations. For these reasons, *I. albitarsus* is considered to be present on both Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, and to be a distinct species from mainland populations of *I. notialis*.

Given the distance separating Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island, it is surprising that the populations from these two islands are so similar and have not diverged in any externally observable traits. One possible explanation for this is that the species previously occurred on only one of the islands and has only recently arrived at the other, possibly by human intervention. This hypothesis is indirectly supported by the lack of early collection records from Lord Howe Island. Wheeler (1927) examined the ant faunas of both Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands; he described *I. albitarsus* from specimens collected on Norfolk Island, but did not record the species from Lord Howe Island. Although this is only weak evidence, it does not exclude the possibility of a recent transfer of this species between the two islands.



Figs 14–21. Species of the *Iridomyrmex calvus* complex. 14, *I. mimulus* (holotype), full face view; 15, *I. mimulus* (holotype), lateral view of mesosoma; 16, *I. notialis* (paratype), full face view; 17, *I. notialis* (paratype), lateral view of mesosoma; 18, *I. occiduus* (paratype), full face view; 19, *I. occiduus* (paratype), lateral view of mesosoma; 20, *I. prismatis* (holotype), full face view; 21, *I. prismatis* (holotype), lateral view of mesosoma.