

head and mesosoma yellowish with the head slightly but distinctly darker than the pronotum. *Iridomyrmex argutus* is most similar to, and sympatric with, *I. occiduus*, but may be separated by the absence of erect hairs on the gula and the contrasting colour between the head and mesosoma.

### Description

Pigment colour of head, mesosoma, legs and petiole yellow, with the head slightly darker; gaster dark reddish brown. Erect or suberect hairs present on lateral margin of head posterior to the compound eyes (in full face view), scapes, mesosomal dorsum, middle and hind femora and tibiae, petiolar node, and first gastral tergite. Head capsule and mesosoma smooth, without sculpture, very shiny. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *calvus* complex.

### Measurements

*Holotype*. CI 0.92; EL 0.19; EW 0.11; HL 0.74; HTL 0.82; HW 0.68; ML 0.29; PnL 0.40; PpL 0.37; REL 0.28; SI 0.94; SL 0.64.

*Worker* ( $n=1$ ). CI 0.91; EL 0.18; EW 0.10; HL 0.70; HTL 0.80; HW 0.64; ML 0.28; PnL 0.37; PpL 0.32; REL 0.28; SI 0.99; SL 0.64.

### Comments

Nothing is known of the biology of *I. argutus*. The only known specimens were collected from a pitfall trap.

### *Iridomyrmex calvus* Emery

(Figs 10, 11)

*Iridomyrmex calvus* Emery, 1914: 419.

### Material Examined

*Types*. Lectotype worker and 3 worker paralectotypes from Prony, New Caledonia, here designated (MCSN); 1 queen paralectotype from Tao, 3 worker paralectotypes from Canala, and 13 worker paralectotypes from Prony, New Caledonia (in NHMB, Baroni Urbani 1977); 1 queen and 14 worker paralectotypes from Oubatche, New Caledonia (8 workers and 1 queen in MHNH, Baroni Urbani 1977; 6 workers in MHNG).

*Other material* (in ANIC). **New Caledonia**: 2 km SW. of Yaté Village, 400 m, 22°10'S., 166°54'E. (PSW); Mt Do summit, 1000 m (G. Monteith and D. Cook); Mt Dzumac, 800–1000 m (G. Monteith and D. Cook); Riviere Bleue (H. Franz); Riviere des Pirogues (headwaters), 350–400 m (G. Monteith and D. Cook); Yahove, c. 1500 ft (T. Schoener).

### Worker Diagnosis

A member of the *calvus* complex with the following characteristics: femora and tibiae of middle and hind legs lacking erect or suberect hairs; head smooth anteriorly, smooth to very weakly punctate and/or coriaceous posteriorly, with the entire head capsule shiny; scapes exceeding the posterior margin of the head by less than  $1.8 \times$  their maximum width ( $SL < 0.85$  mm,  $SI < 1.02$ ) (Fig. 10); known only from New Caledonia. *Iridomyrmex calvus* is most similar to *I. obsidianus*, but may be separated by the shorter antennal scapes and less convex posterior margin of the head (compare Figs 10 and 12).

### Description

Pigment colour of body varying from reddish brown to reddish black; clypeus, mandibles and scapes slightly lighter; tarsi yellowish (either entirely, or distal segments only). Erect or suberect hairs absent from lateral margin of head (in full face view), scapes, middle and hind femora and tibiae, petiolar node, and first gastral tergite (excluding extreme posterior margin). Erect hairs present or absent on pronotum and mesonotum. Head capsule smooth anteriorly, smooth to very weakly punctate and/or coriaceous posteriorly, with the entire