

Worker Diagnosis

A member of the *rufoinclinus* complex with the following characteristics: entire head infuscated dark reddish brown to black, mesosoma and petiole reddish; propodeum low and flattened dorsally (Fig. 33); $CI \leq 0.98$.

Description

Pigment colour of head dark reddish brown to black; mandibles varying from reddish to reddish brown; scapes yellowish to reddish, lighter than remainder of head; mesosoma, petiole, and middle and hind femora and tibiae yellowish red to reddish; fore femur and tibia and all coxae light reddish brown to reddish brown; gaster dark reddish brown. Elongate (greater than maximum scape width), pale erect hairs present on posterior surface of head and dorsal surfaces of mesosoma, petiole and gaster; shorter pale erect hairs present on lateral margin of head and all leg segments; scape with scattered erect to subdecumbent hairs; psammophore well developed. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *rufoinclinus* complex.

Measurements

Holotype. CI 0.96; EL 0.28; EW 0.17; HL 1.13; HTL 1.36; HW 1.08; ML 0.42; PnL 0.74; PpL 0.66; REL 0.26; SI 0.88; SL 0.95.

Worker ($n = 10$). CI 0.92–0.98; EL 0.26–0.33; EW 0.16–0.19; HL 1.11–1.35; HTL 1.31–1.67; HW 1.05–1.32; ML 0.42–0.64; PnL 0.70–0.86; PpL 0.65–0.80; REL 0.25–0.27; SI 0.82–0.89; SL 0.91–1.13.

Comments

Iridomyrmex cephaloinclinus is known from six collections, five occurring in western Western Australia and one in central coastal Queensland (Fig. 37). Even with this wide distribution, however, the species is morphologically fairly uniform and there is no evidence that two species, one western and one eastern, are involved. In fact, the Western Australian collections show noticeable variation in most of the metric characters, with the single Carnarvon specimen being consistently larger than any of the individuals collected at Port Hedland (compare the holotype measurements, which are approximately average for this entire nest series, with the larger values listed under 'Measurements—Worker' above). Additionally, the Queensland individual is intermediate between these extremes in most measurements analysed, and does not show any significant deviations from the 'Diagnosis' or 'Description' given above. It is assumed that *I. cephaloinclinus* is distributed continuously across northern Australia, and that additional collections are likely to be made in north-central and/or north coastal Australia.

Iridomyrmex hesperus, sp. nov.

(Figs 24, 25, 38)

Material Examined

Holotype. Worker, Western Australia, Coalmine Beach, 34°59'S., 116°44'E., Walpole-Nornalup National Park, 25.x–3.xi.1984, J. and N. Lawrence (ANIC, type no. 7993).

Paratypes. 1 worker, same data as holotype; 1 worker, Western Australia, Junana Rock, 33°23'S., 123°24'E., 9 km NW. of Mt Ragged, 26.x.1977, R. W. Taylor # 77.667 (ANIC).

Worker Diagnosis

A member of the *viridigaster* complex with the following characteristics: in lateral profile, central and posterior regions of pronotum forming a uniform, gradual arch (Fig. 25); scapes without erect hairs; $HW < 1.14$ mm; $CI < 0.93$; $SI > 0.85$. *Iridomyrmex hesperus* is the only species of the *viridigaster* complex known from Western Australia.