

### Description

Pigment colour of mesosoma and petiole varying from yellowish red to reddish, with dorsal regions infuscated with dark reddish brown to black; posterior regions of head dark reddish brown, anterior margin of clypeus, scapes and pronotum slightly lighter; legs reddish brown; gaster dark reddish brown. Short (less than maximum scape width), pale erect hairs present on all lateral surfaces of head (sometimes reduced laterally), and on dorsum of mesosoma, petiole and gaster; short, pale suberect to decumbent hairs present on all surfaces of legs; scape without erect hairs; psammophore well developed, with curved setae. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *viridigaster* complex.

### Measurements

*Holotype*. CI 0.91; EL 0.30; EW 0.17; HL 1.18; HTL 1.36; HW 1.08; ML 0.56; PnL 0.65; PpL 0.67; REL 0.28; SI 0.91; SL 0.98.

*Worker* ( $n=2$ ). CI 0.91–0.92; EL 0.30–0.31; EW 0.17; HL 1.18–1.23; HTL 1.36–1.50; HW 1.08–1.13; ML 0.53–0.58; PnL 0.65–0.71; PpL 0.67–0.72; REL 0.27–0.28; SI 0.89–0.91; SL 0.98–1.03.

### Comments

One of the two known collections of *I. hesperus* was made in mallee vegetation. Nothing more is known of the biology of this species.

### *Iridomyrmex mimulus*, sp. nov.

(Figs 14, 15, 36)

### Material Examined

*Holotype*. Worker, South Australia, Lake Eyre (South) [c. 29°30'S., 137°10'E.], 22.ix.1980, H. Heatwole (ANIC, type no. 7994).

### Worker Diagnosis

A member of the *calvus* complex with the following characteristics: femora and tibiae of middle and hind legs with erect or suberect hairs; scapes without erect or suberect hairs (except at extreme tip); head and mesosoma yellowish red, without metallic blue iridescence. *Iridomyrmex mimulus* is morphologically most similar to *I. prismatis*, but may be separated from it by the lighter body colour, lack of iridescence, lack of erect hairs on the lateral margin of the head (compare Figs 14 and 20), and the larger size (see 'Key to Species' above for details).

### Description

Pigment colour of head and mesosoma light yellowish red, with the dorsum of the head slightly infuscated; legs, petiole and gaster reddish brown, distinctly darker than head and mesosoma. Erect or suberect hairs present on posterior margin of head (in full face view), mesosomal dorsum, middle and hind femora and tibiae, petiolar node, and first gastral tergite; erect or suberect hairs absent from scapes. Head capsule finely punctate anteriorly, very weakly coriaceous posteriorly, and weakly shiny; mesosoma finely punctate and weakly shiny. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *calvus* complex.

### Measurements

*Holotype*. CI 0.93; EL 0.30; EW 0.17; HL 1.14; HTL 1.25; HW 1.05; ML 0.45; PnL 0.69; PpL 0.59; REL 0.28; SI 0.81; SL 0.85.

### Comments

*Iridomyrmex mimulus* is superficially similar to a small individual of the *I. purpureus* or *I. discors* groups (see Shattuck 1993). However, the frontal carinae are uniformly convex,