

in the development of erect hairs on the pronotum and the first gastral tergite, which vary in number from 0 to 6. No geographic pattern could be found in any of these characters to suggest that more than one species is involved, although the amount and quality of available material makes a critical analysis difficult.

Little is known of the biology of *I. notialis*. The only available information is that the type series, collected at Port Adelaide, was found in a dead mangrove branch, and that several of the Victorian collections were made on low vegetation (A. N. Andersen, personal communication).

***Iridomyrmex obsidianus* Emery**

(Figs 12, 13)

*Iridomyrmex obsidianus* Emery, 1914: 419.

**Material Examined**

*Types.* 2 worker syntypes from Mt Humboldt, 1600 m, New Caledonia (1 individual in MCSN; 1 individual in NHMB, Baroni Urbani 1977).

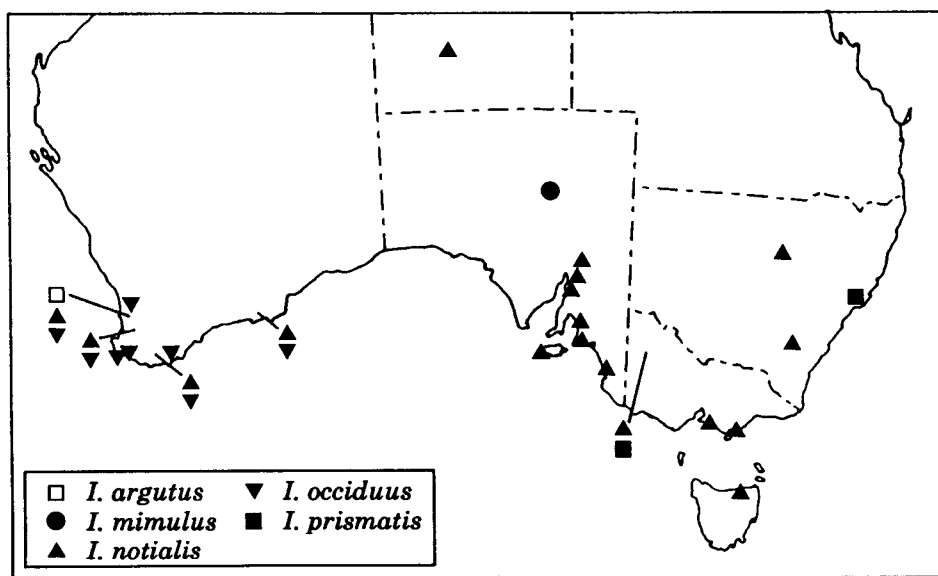
*Other material* (in ANIC). **New Caledonia:** Mt Do summit, 1020 m (G. Kuschel).

**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, very weakly punctate posteriorly, with the entire head capsule shiny; scapes exceeding the posterior margin of the head by more than  $2.2\times$  their maximum width ( $SL > 0.86$  mm,  $SI > 1.03$ ) (Fig. 12); known only from New Caledonia. *Iridomyrmex obsidianus* is most similar to *I. calvus*, but may be separated by the longer antennal scapes and the more convex posterior margin of the head (compare Figs 12 and 10).

**Description**

Pigment colour of body reddish black; scapes, femora and tibiae slightly lighter; tarsi yellowish. Erect or suberect hairs absent from lateral margin of head (in full face view),



**Fig. 36.** Distribution of mainland Australian *I. calvus* complex material examined during this study (map does not include species found on Lord Howe I., New Caledonia or Norfolk I.).