

Worker ($n=14$). CI 0·92–0·99; EL 0·17–0·21; EW 0·10–0·14; HL 0·71–0·90; HTL 0·75–1·00; HW 0·67–0·89; ML 0·29–0·42; PnL 0·36–0·51; PpL 0·33–0·45; REL 0·23–0·27; SI 0·86–0·95; SL 0·61–0·78.

Comments

Iridomyrmex occiduus is known from numerous collections from south-western Western Australia. The available biological data indicate that a wide range of habitats is utilised, varying from dry sclerophyll woodlands to marri forests. Nesting sites are in soil under objects on the ground (R. W. Taylor, personal communication) and in dead wood (J. D. Majer, personal communication).

As conceived here, *I. occiduus* shows considerable variation in size and colour. The only morphological pattern observable within the available material is a weak trend for smaller individuals to be lighter in colour when compared with larger individuals. However, it is thought that these specimens are conspecific because (i) some of the larger individuals are also relatively pale in colour, (ii) all metric characters examined are more or less continuous across all size classes, and (iii) no other characters could be found that vary significantly within these collections.

Iridomyrmex prismatis, sp. nov.

(Figs 20, 21, 36)

Iridomyrmex sp. 13.—Andersen and Yen, 1992: 214.

Material Examined

Holotype. Worker, Victoria, c. 15 km WNW. of Yaapect [35°42'S., 141°52'E. (Andersen and Yen 1992)], Wyperfeld National Park, 2.xi.1979, A. L. Yen (ANIC, type no. 7997).

Paratypes. 1 worker, same data as holotype; 2 workers, same data as holotype except Oct. 1982, A. B. Wellington.

Other material (in ANIC). **New South Wales:** Hawks Nest, Myall Lakes (PJM).

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 dark reddish brown to black and with a weak metallic blue iridescence. *Iridomyrmex prismatis* is morphologically most similar to *I. mimulus*, but may be separated from it by the darker body colour, presence of iridescence, presence of erect hairs on the lateral margin of the head (compare Figs 20 and 14), and the smaller size (see 'Key to Species' above for details).

Description

Pigment colour of entire body dark reddish brown to black, except anterolateral regions of head near the mandibular insertions and lateral clypeus, scapes and legs, which are slightly to distinctly lighter. Darker regions of body with a weak but distinct blue metallic iridescence. Erect or suberect hairs present on all lateral surfaces 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 but densely punctate anteriorly, densely punctate to weakly coriaceous posteriorly, and shiny; mesosoma a mosaic of finely but densely punctate and weakly coriaceous regions, and shiny. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *calvus* complex.

Measurements

Holotype. CI 0·90; EL 0·25; EW 0·14; HL 0·90; HTL 1·03; HW 0·82; ML 0·35; PnL 0·55; PpL 0·50; REL 0·31; SI 0·92; SL 0·75.