

Worker Diagnosis

A member of the *rufoinclinus* complex with the following characteristics: head, mesosoma and petiole yellowish red to reddish and similar in colour; propodeum low and flattened dorsally (Fig. 35); $CI \leq 0.98$.

Description

Entire body (except gaster) yellowish red to reddish, legs and dorsum of petiole often weakly infuscated with reddish brown and slightly darker than mesosoma; 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 or without 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 0.95; EL 0.35; EW 0.19; HL 1.44; HTL 1.81; HW 1.37; ML 0.67; PnL 0.92; PpL 0.81; REL 0.26; SI 0.86; SL 1.18.

Worker ($n = 10$). CI 0.91–0.98; EL 0.31–0.37; EW 0.18–0.20; HL 1.20–1.44; HTL 1.60–1.80; HW 1.10–1.38; ML 0.55–0.70; PnL 0.70–0.92; PpL 0.66–0.81; REL 0.25–0.28; SI 0.81–0.95; SL 0.96–1.18.

Comments

This is the most well-known species in the *rufoinclinus* complex, and the second most widely distributed after *I. cephaloinclinus*. It occurs from the Darwin region east and south to Mareeba and south-western Queensland (Fig. 37). The limited available collection data suggest that it occurs in wooded areas.

The type series was collected from a riparian woodland area approximately 20 m from the lake below Edith Falls. Foraging occurred throughout the day, although activity levels were reduced during the middle of the day. A single, loosely formed foraging column was found that extended approximately 15 m before being lost in heavy shrubs. The nest consisted of a low, thin asymmetrical disc of loose soil with a single entrance hole. The only other collections of *I. rufoinclinus* for which collection notes are known were made at Kapalga, Kakadu National Park. These specimens occurred in savanna woodland, and individuals were often found foraging on low vegetation (personal observation; A. N. Andersen, personal communication).

Iridomyrmex viridigaster Clark

(Figs 26, 27, 38)

Iridomyrmex viridigaster Clark, 1941: 87.

Material Examined

Holotype. Worker, Victoria, Patho [c. 36°02'S., 144°26'E.], 19.xii.1936, H. A. Potter, bearing a red 'Type' label (MVMA).

Paratypes. 2 workers, same data as holotype, bearing a blue 'PARATYPE' label (ANIC). In addition, there are 5 workers in MVMA and 2 workers in ANIC that bear identical collection labels to the holotype and paratypes, but lack paratype labels, and 5 workers in ANIC with collection labels similar to the holotype and paratypes but lacking the date, and also lacking paratype labels. The original description does not indicate the number of specimens examined and there is no direct evidence to suggest that these non-type labelled specimens are actually part of the type series. Until additional information becomes available, the type material of this species is here considered to be restricted to the holotype and 2 paratypes, all of which bear type labels.

Other material (in ANIC). **New South Wales**: 5 km W. of Broken Hill (PJM); Bogan R. (J. Armstrong); Broken Hill (BBL); Hay (BBL); 'Kapunda', N. of Nyngan (PJM); Moulamein