

(BBL); Nyngan (J. Armstrong). **Northern Territory:** Kunoth Paddock, nr Alice Springs (PJM). **Queensland:** 16 km W. of Cunnamulla (PJM). **South Australia:** 7 km NW. of Morgan (PJM); 2 km NE. of Koonamore (PJM).

### 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. 27); scapes generally with short erect hairs (Fig. 26) (sometimes absent); dorsum of gaster with elongate pale erect hairs (Fig. 27); HW > 1.15 mm, HL < 1.39.

### Description

Pigment colour of anterior regions of head, clypeus, mandibles, scapes, posterior and ventral pronotum, and anterior mesonotum yellowish red to reddish; remainder of head and mesosoma, and petiole, gaster and legs infuscated dark reddish brown to black (occasionally head and pronotum only weakly infuscated and only slightly darker than nearby regions). Elongate, pale erect hairs present on all lateral surfaces of head (lateral hairs slightly shorter), and dorsum of mesosoma, petiole and gaster; short, pale suberect hairs present on all surfaces of legs; scape generally with erect to suberect hairs, sometimes without hairs; psammophore well developed, hairs on gula weakly curved, those on mandibles distinctly curved. For additional characters, see 'Worker Diagnosis', 'Key' and the definition and discussion of the *viridigaster* complex.

### Measurements

*Worker* ( $n = 13$ ). CI 0.93–0.99; EL 0.30–0.33; EW 0.15–0.19; HL 1.23–1.38; HTL 1.34–1.52; HW 1.16–1.33; ML 0.47–0.65; PnL 0.71–0.80; PpL 0.64–0.72; REL 0.24–0.27; SI 0.75–0.80; SL 0.93–1.01.

### Comments

*Iridomyrmex viridigaster* is the most common and widespread species in the *viridigaster* complex (Fig. 38). Most collections have been made in drier areas, although detailed information is lacking. Unfortunately, almost all of the available specimens have come from pitfall traps or are hand-collected strays and very few have come from nests. This has limited the amount of information available for this species.

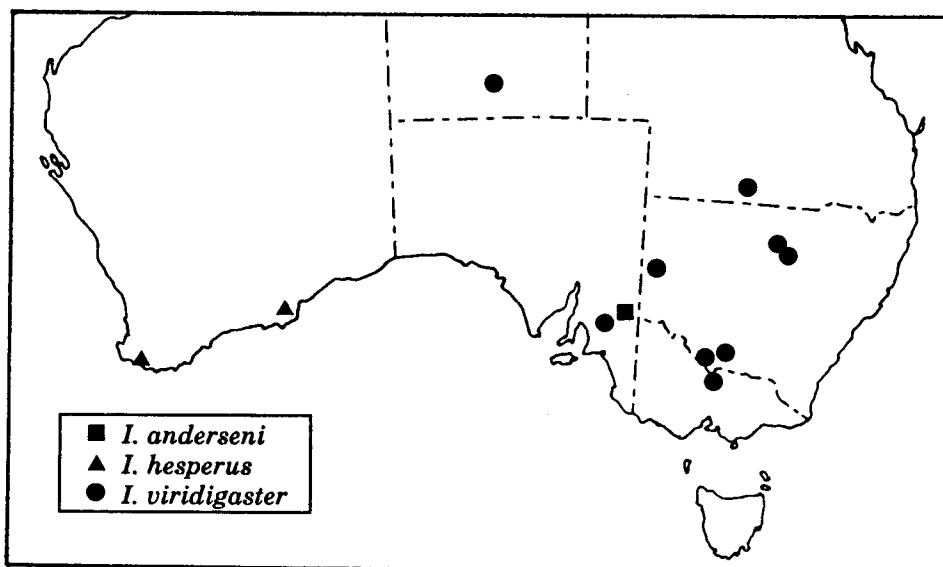


Fig. 38. Distribution of *I. viridigaster* complex material examined during this study.