

Major diagnostic features as in couplets 1 and 2 of the key above. Additional features as follows: Sides of head behind eyes evenly rounded in front view. Interpunctural areas of frons and thoracic dorsum smooth and shining, with a few vague, minute longitudinal striae or rugulae on pronotal disc. Polished granular microsculpture present on pronotal collar, sides, declivity and lamellae of propodeum, sides of trunk behind pronotum, and on petiole and postpetiole (except for their crests and the leading edges of the postpetiolar wings). First gastral tergite smooth and strongly shining. Colour in recently collected specimens generally golden sienna-brown, apparently fading in old material to yellowish-brown; mandibles, antennae, legs and gaster slightly lighter.

Allometric variation in cephalic proportions reported by Brown (1952) has been confirmed in this study. The specimen illustrated is a large one; smaller individuals have proportionately narrow heads.

Female diagnosis

The gynetype, paragynetype (measurements from Brown 1952) and 2 additional females have the following dimensions: TL *ca* 4.7-5.4; HL (max) 0.95-1.00; HW 0.86-0.90; CI 90-93; MI 37-39; WL 1.28-1.36. The worker diagnosis applies except that the pronotum lacks interpunctural microsculpture. Areas near ocelli, thoracic sutures, dorsolateral corners of petiolar node and postpetiolar wings darkly infuscated.

***Mesostruma eccentrica* sp. n.**
(Plate II)

Type locality: 14 km W of Balranald (34°38'S, 143°25'E), New South Wales.

Distribution, material examined

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Seal Bay, Kangaroo Island, 5 workers (18.v.1970, BBL); Monarto South, 2 workers (23.vii.1969, C. A. Kirkby), dealate female (30.vii.1969, C. A. Kirkby); 3.2 km W of Sherlock, 9 workers (12.i.1970, RWT); 4.8 km W of Parilla, 18 workers (12.i.1970, RWT). 12.8 km SW of Waikerie, 2 workers, dealate female (22.viii.1971, BBL); 1 km NW of Monash, 2 workers, 1 dealate female (17.v.1970, ICT); Monash, 4 workers (6.vii.1970, ICT). **VICTORIA**: Lake Hattah, 1 worker (27.x.1967, E. B. Britton); 27 km S of Ouyen, 1 dealate female (8.ii.1970, CGB); Wyperfeld National Park, 1 km N of Frew's Plain, 1 worker (8.ii.1970, RWT); 27 km W of Manangatang, 1 dealate female (12.i.1970, RWT). **NEW SOUTH WALES**: 14 km W of Balranald (**TYPE LOCALITY**) *holotype*, 44 worker *paratypes* and a dealate female (9.ii.1970, RWT).

Lowery's South Australian specimens were collected foraging on mallee stems in late afternoon or early morning.

Type designations.—Because this species is variable the type series is here restricted to specimens from the type locality only. These alone are designated *paratypes*. Other specimens carry my identification label dated 17.v.71. The *holotype* has been gold-palladium coated; a colour matched *paratype* is mounted on the same pin.

Deposition of material.—All specimens in ANIC (Type no. 7513), except 2 *paratypes* each in AM, BM(NH), GM, MCZ, NMV, SAM, MNB.

Worker diagnosis

Dimensions of the various series are given in Table 1. Major diagnostic features as in couplets 1 and 2 of the key above. Sides of head behind eyes evenly rounded (as in *M. laevigata*—Plate IA) to broadly angled (Plate IIA). Sculpturation and colour as described above for *M. laevigata*, colour averaging slightly lighter.

Variation.—The specimens vary in size, but this appears to be taxonomically unimportant. Colour also varies; full intensity being developed in only a few specimens from each series. There is slight variation in sculptural density, outline of the sides of the cranium, length of humeral and propodeal spines, length of posterodorsal face of petiolar node in side view, and development of tumosities on the sides of the postpetiole. This variation appears primarily allometric and