

in defending their nest. The coloration is considered to be of a warning type, as it renders the insects conspicuous in their natural surroundings. They appear to be chiefly diurnal foragers.

Among species from the same area, *rufinodis* is likely to be confused only with (1) *M. simillima* Fred. Smith, which is larger and more robust and does not include a form with reddish pronotum on blackish alitrunk such as is common in all *rufinodis* nests, and (2) *M. pulchra* Clark, a species of more robust stature and with quite different mandibles.

#### MYRMECIA PYRIFORMIS Fred. Smith

*Myrmecia pyriformis* Fred. Smith, 1858, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6: 144, pl. 10, figs. 1-6, worker, female, male. Crawley, 1926, p. 377, fig. 4.

*Myrmecia sanguinea* Fred. Smith, 1858, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6: 148, worker. Crawley, 1926, p. 378, fig. 5. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Myrmecia simillima* Clark (nec Fred. Smith), 1952, Formic. Australia, Melbourne, 1: 89-91, figs. 68, 69, worker, female.

*Myrmecia pyriformis* Clark, 1952, *Ibid.*, pp. 99-101, figs. 78-80, worker, female, male.

*Myrmecia forficata* Clark, *partim* (nec Fabricius), 1952, *Idem*, p. 93.

*M. pyriformis* is a very common species in open sclerophyll woodland in southeastern Australia. It often builds conspicuous mounds, and is normally a night forager. In order to prevent any further confusion regarding this species, it is necessary to refer to some of the outstanding characters.

The stature is large, averaging larger than in *M. forficata*, the color is darker, with the head and alitrunk dark reddish-brown to blackish-brown, and the sculpture of head, alitrunk and nodes is more irregular and more opaque. The mandibles are essentially like those of *forficata*, but the angulate portion near the base (inner borders) is even broader and more strongly salient. The clypeus is densely pubescent, the whitish hairs usually hiding the surface here. Postpetiole and succeeding (basal gastric) tergite in unworn specimens normally bearing a very short but fairly dense reclinate pubescence of a light grayish or brownish color. The pronotal costulation (or striation) varies considerably in pattern, even in unicolonial series; some specimens have longitudinal costulation in the middle, others have the lines converging anteriorly in a V, and still others are narrowly- to broadly-arched costulate in a more or less transverse direction.