

clypeus, mandibles, antennae and most often the legs are ferruginous yellow. Variation in size and in allometric characters is considerable, both inter- and intranidal, and it is very largely these differences which Clark utilizes in separating *M. desertorum*, *M. lutea*, and *M. princeps*. However, material in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, including types of *M. desertorum* and *M. lutea*, shows no such striking differences as Clark claims for them, and it seems evident that he has exaggerated, particularly in characterizing the petiole. He also depends on the density and extent of the gastric pubescence, which may be dense on the first segment, or lacking, or partly so, even in uninidal series. As with other *Myrmecia* species, this gastric pubescence is frequently deciduous, and is often lost in old or roughly handled specimens. The pronotal sculpture is also unreliable, since single nest series show the complete range of patterns linking and including *desertorum* and *lutea*. Clark's figures 24, 36, 38 and 39 will serve to demonstrate the similarity of the mandibles of *M. princeps* to those of the other three species, although Clark brings *princeps* out to a separate group in his key (p. 23) on the basis of mandibular differences. Even with the comparatively moderate amount of material available to me at present, I find the limits between these forms impossible to set.

*M. fuscipes* is a slightly darker form of *M. desertorum* marked chiefly by having more or less deeply infuscated middle and posterior legs. Such specimens have been examined from Port Lincoln, South Australia (A. M. Lea), which is the type locality, but even in this series I find that the legs are sometimes completely yellowish. In series from Pioneer Siding in the Dundas (Norseman) region of Western Australia (W. L. Brown), and in a dealate female from Koonalda Siding, South Australia, on the Nullarbor Plain (N. F. Wallman), the legs are consistently fuscous, but series from the Flinders Ranges of South Australia: Mt. Patawerta (A. R. Riddle) and Wilpena Pound (W. L. Brown) include specimens with both light and fuscous legs. The dark-legged form, which is most typically found nesting at the roots of chenopodiaceous desert shrubs (*Kochia*, *Atriplex*, etc.), may possibly be a southern race, but the yellow-legged form penetrates so far into its range that this seems unlikely. Until it has been studied more thoroughly, it seems preferable to consider the dark-legged form a sporadic, possibly environmentally-impressed variant without further distinction by name. The darkest specimens may have even the postpetiole strongly mottled with deep brown (Port Lincoln).