Great!

Many thanks to all of you for your support. Even the experts made it clear
(some of you -JD- must be extremely bussy with such useless users as my self)

Everything is running smoothly now. The problem was a very messy
.emacs file, which when built from inside the customisation option of
idlwave is much clearer than what I could do.

I must also admit with embarrassment that I linked to idl.app and not
to /bin/idl but the confussion is in part due to that schizophrenic
dichotomy between the Darwin terminal and the x11 terminal. /bin/idl
works fine in the latter but is unknown in the former. I learnt my
little unix on an old sun solaris, which wasn't that fussy.

Thanks again,

Javier