

that in all essential particulars its habits are the same as those of other Ponerinæ.†

The peculiarities which the kelep shares with other Ponerinæ and which would seem to place serious obstacles in the way of establishing it in a foreign country, are the following:

1. The Ponerinæ are archaic ants which form small colonies§ and comprise no dominant species except in Australia, where the genus *Myrmecia* (the famous 'bull-dog ants') offers an interesting and instructive parallel to the marsupialia among mammals. In fact, the opossums of America bear about the same relation to our dominant mammals, like the rodents, as do the Ponerinæ to the dominant ants of the subfamilies Myrmecinae and Camponotinae.

2. The Ponerinæ are local and rare, and show little adaptability or plasticity in comparison with the more recently evolved and dominant species.

3. It is altogether exceptional for any of the Ponerinæ to restrict their diet to a single species of prey. In fact, the only known exception is the Texan *Leptogenys elongata*, which, as I have shown, feeds very largely, if not exclusively, on terrestrial isopods.¶ The

* Dr. Cook is in error in supposing that there is anything doubtful about the occurrence of *E. tuberculatum* in Mexico. I have before me a fine series of workers taken at Tuxpan by Mr. J. F. McClendon. They agree perfectly with a typical specimen of the kelep collected by Stoll, at Retalhuleu, Guatemala, and sent me by Professor Forel.

† 'Report on the Habits of the Kelep, or Guatemalan Cotton-Boll-Weevil Ant,' U. S. Dept. Agr. Bur. Bull. No. 49, Washington, 1904.

‡ See my papers, 'A Study of Some Texan Ponerinæ,' *Biol. Bull.*, Vol. II., No. 1, 1900, and 'The Habits of *Ponera* and *Stigmatomma*,' *ibid.*, Vol. II., No. 2, 1900.

§ *E. tuberculatum* colonies contain from 20 to 110 workers each, and average between 40 and 50.

¶ 'A Crustacean-eating Ant (*Leptogenys elongata* Buckley),' *Biol. Bull.*, Vol. VI., 1904.