

for eighteen months," and in the Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh in 1912, and *Pheidole megacephala*, which in many tropical regions completely destroys all insects in its environment, except the Coccids, and disseminates and attends these to the great injury of many kinds of cultivated plants.

One is surprised to find the indigenous ant-fauna of Great Britain so meager compared with that of continental Europe. Only 40 forms are recorded by Donisthorpe, comprising 28 species, 14 subspecies (often ranked as species) and 8 varieties, representing only about one third of the central European fauna. Switzerland, a much smaller area than Great Britain and one which has been very carefully explored by Forel, has 116 indigenous Formicidæ, comprising 63 species, 17 subspecies and 36 varieties. The British fauna not only lacks any species peculiar to itself, but is also deficient in a whole series of genera and subgenera known to occur in Central Europe (*Strongylognathus*, *Harpagoxenus*, *Temnothorax*, *Neomyrma*, *Crematogaster*, *Pheidole*, *Messor*, *Aphænogaster*, *Dolichoderus*, *Bothriomyrmex*, *Plagiolepis*, *Polyergus*, *Camponotus* and *Colobopsis*). Most surprising is the absence of any species of the great cosmopolitan genus *Camponotus* in Great Britain. The carpenter ant (*C. herculeanus*), which is common throughout the northern portions of North American and Eurasia, could hardly be expected to be absent, but Donisthorpe shows that all records of its indigenous occurrence in Great Britain are very dubious. Some of the continental genera such as *Strongylognathus*, *Harpagoxenus*, *Bothriomyrmex* and *Polyergus* are rare and parasitic and it is very doubtful whether they will ever be found in the British Isles. Nevertheless, the singular parasitic *Anergates atratulus* was not discovered there till 1912, when