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35. Formicidæ from Easter Island and Juan Fernandez.

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The ants taken by Mr. K. BÄCKSTRÖM, zoologist to Professor SKOTTSBERG's expedition to Easter Island and Juan Fernandez comprise only seven small forms, all belonging to well known »tramp», or vagabond species of Old World origin, with the single exception of *Ponera trigona* var. *opacior*, which is widely distributed in tropical and subtropical America. It is therefore interesting to note that the affinities of the ant fauna of these islands, so far as they are revealed by the collection, are very largely with Polynesia. This is clearly indicated by such species as *Prenolepis bourbonica* and *obscura*, *Plagiolepis mactavishi* and *Cardiocondyla nuda* which have not been taken in America. I have noted in the following paragraphs the known range of each of the seven forms taken by the expedition.

1. *Ponera trigona* Mayr. var. *opacior* Forel. ♀ ♀ ♂. — »Under stones.» The types of the species are from Sta. Catharina, Brazil, and of those the var. *opacior* from St. Vincent, West Indies. I have seen specimens of the latter from Concepcion, Chili (R. THAXTER), Texas, California, Florida, Mexico and numerous stations in the West Indies. It seems to be very common in the Argentine. FOREL has described a subsp. *convexiuscula* from Queensland, Australia. — **Easter Island.**

2. *Cardiocondyla nuda* Mayr. subsp. *minutior* Forel.

*Worker.* Length 1,6—1,8 mm.

Differing from the typical *nuda* in its smaller size, in having the head more rectangular, with more pronounced posterior corners, and the thorax, petiole and postpetiole decidedly opaque and more coarsely sculptured. The antennal scapes are distinctly shorter and the postpetiole is very noticeably smaller, more depressed dorsally, as compared with the petiole, though twice as broad as the latter and distinctly broader than long. Epinotal spines more acute. Color and pubescence much as in the typical *nuda* and the subsp. *mauritanica* Forel.

*Female* (undescribed). Length 2—2,3 mm.

Differing from the female of the typical form in the same characters as the worker; the dorsal flattening of the postpetiole even more pronounced. Wings like those of the typical form; hyaline and iridescent, with colorless veins.

The specimens from Easter Island are all workers. I have added the description of the female from a series of females and workers taken by Mr. E. M. EHRHORN at Honolulu, Hawaii, the type locality. Forel described this form as a variety, but it evidently deserves to rank as a subspecies.

The typical *C. nuda* was originally described from Fiji, and has been recently taken there by Dr. W. M. MANN. It is also recorded from India, Ceylon, Queensland and New Guinea. The subsp. *mauritanica* Forel occurs in Tunis, Algiers, Cyprus and probably elsewhere along the eastern and southern littoral of the Mediterranean. — **Easter Island.**

3. **Tetramorium guineënsis** Fabr. ♀. — Probably of African origin, but now spread throughout the tropics of both hemispheres and occasionally common in hot-houses in temperate regions. — **Easter Island.**

4. **Tetramorium simillimum** F. Smith. ♀. — Like the preceding distributed in all parts of the tropics and occurring in hot-houses in Europe and the United States. — **Easter Island.**

5. **Plagiolepis mactavishi** Wheeler. ♂ ♀. — The female (undescribed) measures about 2.5 mm. and is more brownish yellow, more pubescent and much less shining than the worker; the gaster above darker brown with the bases and margins of the segments brownish yellow. Wings whitish with pale yellow veins. Head subrectangular, nearly as broad as long, only very slightly narrowed anteriorly, the posterior border straight, the eyes about half as long as the sides, the antennal scapes extending a distance equal to their greatest diameter beyond the posterior corners of the head. Thorax broader than the head, elliptical, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as broad, the large mesonotum ~~very flat, scarcely longer than broad; epinotum short, convex, without distinct base and declivity.~~ Wings long, finely pubescent.

The workers agree perfectly with the types from Moorea, Society Islands and specimens from Honolulu (EHRHORN) and Takao, Formosa (SAUTER) in my collection. This form is evidently very close to and perhaps merely a variety of *P. alluaudi* Emery, originally described from the Seychelles. — **Easter Island.**

6. **Prenolepis (Nylanderia) obscura** Mayr. subsp. *vaga* Forel. ♀. — A single specimen. The Type of the species was originally described from Sydney, New South Wales, where it was taken by the «Novara» Expedition. It is recorded also from Java and Hawaii. The subsp. *vaga* and *bismarckensis* Forel were originally described from the Bismarck Archipelago, and the latter has been recently taken by Dr. W. M. MANN in the Solomon Islands. A paler form of the species occurs in New Guinea. — **Juan Fernández: Masatierra.**

7. **Prenolepis (Nylanderia) bourbonica** Forel subsp. *skottsbergi* subsp. nov.

*Worker.* Darker than any of the described forms of the species, the body being black or very dark brown, the mandibles, antennal scapes and legs brown, the tarsi, knees and trochanters yellow. The head is rectangular and as broad in front as behind, as in the subsp. *hawaiiensis* Forel, but distinctly smaller. The surface of the body is distinctly more shining than in the typical form or the subsp. *bengalensis* Forel, and the blunt hairs on the head; thorax and gaster are deep black and longer and coarser than in the

typical form. The pubescence on the head and thorax seems to be somewhat finer and more dilute.

The male agrees very closely with FOREL's description of the typical form and with specimens of the subsp. *hawaiiensis* in my collection.

Several workers and two males. The typical form of the species was described from the island of Reunion and has also been recorded from the Seychelles, Chagos, Nicobars and Pemba Island, East Africa. The subsp. *bengalensis* Forel was described from India, the subsp. *n'gasiyana* Forel from the Grand Comoro, the var. *amia* Forel from Formosa and China and the subsp. *hawaiiensis* Forel from Hawaii. There are at least two undescribed forms of the species from the Philippines in my collection. — **Easter Island.**

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