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35. Formicidæ from Easter Island and Juan Fernandez.

By

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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.