

An alphabetical index will also greatly add to its usefulness. Only the original citation is given for each species, subspecies, and variety. This is followed by the caste or castes, when known, on which the original description was based. In addition to the type location, the major regions in which the species have been found are given as these data are of value to the student of ecology and zoogeography.

Wheeler in the introduction to his Check List of Oceania (1935) has given a most thorough discussion of the problems faced in the classification and distribution of certain Old World genera of this region. The senior author's own studies during the past thirty years emphasize all the more the fact he called to our attention, that is, the close relationships of the Philippine, Papuan and Australian faunas, some of which extend into the islands of the Pacific. It would appear from the senior author's studies that many genera have a decidedly restricted distribution. I feel that this is probably due to the limited material now available from this region and that there is great likelihood that the range of many of these genera will be considerably extended when more extensive collections are made.

When I last visited the Museum of Comparative Zoology, in 1941, and checked the specimens in Wheeler's collection which were still undescribed, I found a very large number labeled "new." The total in his collection and mine may reach two-hundred and fifty species. To describe this material will be a great task involving an extensive study and revision of many difficult genera such as *Ponera*, *Trapeziopelta*, *Diacamma*, *Lep-togenys*, *Pheidole*, *Strumigenys*, *Aphaenogaster*, *Dolichoderus*, and *Camponotus*, to which many of these new species belong. With very few exceptions these have been added to the collection during the past twenty-five years. Collections by various members of the armed forces during World War II will no doubt swell this number enormously.

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