

ant fauna can be most closely compared. Accounts of the distribution and behaviour of many species in Norway (Holgersen 1944) apply well to the same species in Scotland. There are however additional species in Norway that have not been found in Britain. Chief of these is *Camponotus herculeanus* L. which is common and conspicuous throughout the coniferous forests of North Europe and the Alps. Yasumatsu and Brown (1951) note that it is found throughout the natural ranges of the spruce and fir genera *Picea* and *Abies*. While by no means confined to these trees, it is a curious fact their neither fir nor ant appear to have spread to Britain in post-glacial times. Another ant *Formica gagatoides* Ruzs. is abundant in Norway on tundra and upland woodland, but has not been found in comparable areas in Scotland. The inquiline *Harpagoxenus sublaevis* Nyl. is another widely distributed Scandinavian species which has not been found here despite the abundance of its host *Leptothorax acervorum* in Scotland. The comparison with Ireland is less close in that three Irish species *Stenamma westwoodii* West, *Myrmica schencki* Em. and *Lasius fuliginosus* Latr. are unknown in Scotland while *M.sulcinodus*, *M.lobicornis*, *F.nitidulus*, *F.sanguinea* and *F.exsecta* have not been found in Ireland (Collingwood 1958).

NOTES ON THE SPECIES

Leptothorax acervorum Fab.

This is common throughout the Highlands and has been found in every vice-county. It is recorded from the Orkneys (Weatherill 1939) but is not yet known from Shetland or the Outer Hebrides. It nests under stones, bark, in rock clefts and in bare peat. A small ant of pacific habits, it scarcely comes into direct competition with the larger *Formica* and *Myrmica* among which its nests are often found. The Highland forms are frequently very dark coloured and correspond to the description of the variety *nigrescens* Ruzs. These colour variations are too inconstant however to be regarded as distinct as Holgersen (1944) found in Norway.

Tetramorium caespitum L.

This is probably an adventive species in the area. Its distribution north of the heathlands of South England is almost entirely coastal and is very scattered in Scotland. It has occurred in several localities in the East Lowlands — Edinburgh, Haddington,