

Rogeria is an interesting, little-known genus with a curiously disjunct distribution. It has several species in tropical America, but only two or three in the Pacific Islands. *R. stigmatica*, previously recorded as *R. sublaevinodis* Emery in Wilson & Taylor (1967), is abundant in the Fiji island complex.

The three *Strumigenys* spp. are small Dacetine ants found in leaf litter. They are exclusively predatory, living on small arthropods such as mites and springtails in the soil.

Subfamily Dolichoderinae

Tapinoma melanocephalum is an extremely successful tramp species throughout the tropics, and is frequently a nuisance pest in warehouses and heated premises. *T. minutum* is Australian in origin but appears to be spreading through the Pacific islands.

Technomyrmex albipes is widespread through Africa as well as Asia and is frequently reported from glasshouses.

Subfamily Formicinae

Anoplolepis gracilipes, previously known as *A. longipes* (Jerdon), may become a dominant ant in disturbed habitats. It can reach epidemic proportions because of its ability to develop huge populations. In such situations, it can be damaging to poultry and livestock, as it has done in the Seychelles Islands (Haines & Haines 1978).

Plagiolepis alluaudi is a pan-tropical tramp known throughout the Pacific and, like *A. gracilipes*, is considered native to Africa.

Paratrechina species are found throughout agricultural habitats in the tropics and subtropics. *P. flavipes* in particular appears to be spreading rapidly westward from its origins in the temperate orient, with recent records in Central America as well as southern Arabia. *P. bourbonica* and *P. vaga* are more common and widely distributed oriental tropical species.

Camponotus chloroticus is common throughout the Pacific. This species, in common with other members of the genus, depends largely on the exudates of arboreal Homoptera.

DISCUSSION

Ants are widely used as indicator species for monitoring ecological variation (New, 1995). In addition, ants are among the most invasive exotic arthropods in terrestrial communities, especially on islands. The invasive species can cause a quick decline in native ant species, and they also have adverse influences on other taxa. A recent example in the Pacific is the introduction of the South American ant *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Roger) into New Caledonia (Fabres & Brown, 1978), which, after a few years, led to an ecological disaster (Dr P. Cochereau, pers. comm.). For these reasons, it seems worthwhile to use any opportunity for collecting ants on oceanic islands and to publish the results in order to provide a base for future comparisons.