

posed that disturbing a nest of Ants for the sake of examining its contents, even if it have ever been thought of within the tropics, is there the same slight matter that it is here, and that it may be executed with the same impunity. The colonies of these insects in hot climates are very populous, and their sting much more venomous than here, the poison increasing in intensity with the degree of heat; besides which, the collectors in those climates are either natives or negroes, who would be contented with what chance might throw in their way, without exposing themselves to the possibility of a conflict with such redoubtable opponents as a colony of Ants.

I am prepared, in pursuit of the above conjecture, to show a considerable degree of resemblance, as I said just now, in many points of *analogy* between *Ponera* and the *Dorylidæ*. I possess a male of the former from Western Africa, which in its minute head, large ocelli, elongate cylindrical body, and node of the abdomen, very much resembles a *Dorylus*, and in the neururation of its wings it is a close approximation to *Labidus*; but notwithstanding these particulars it is but an analogy, for the trophi are totally dissimilar, and there it is a genuine Ant. I have just now stated the female which I have so often alluded to is blind, and this is the case in the species of *Ponera* that occurs in this country, the only European species of the genus; and besides which this remarkable little female has three minute spines at the apex of the abdomen, a character found in the *Ponera crassinoda* from Demerara, but which occurs, as far as I have had the opportunity of examining, in no other *female* of any hymenopterous genus. In *Labidus* also the calcar of the four posterior legs is dilated at its base and acuminate at the apex, a character found in one of each of the calcaria of the four posterior legs of *Ponera*; these I consider all strong analogical circumstances. In conclusion I would observe that I think it extremely probable that these females are of very voracious habits, for the perfect one I possess has within its mandibles a portion of the wing of apparently a *Termes**; and the second species, of which I have only the head, is attached by the mandible to the thigh of a large *Formica*, an insect six times its size. I willingly allow that an important portion of the whole of this argument wants direct confirmation as far as regards what I consider may be the female *Labidus*, for although the points of resemblance which I shall below show are many and strong, yet are they only conjectural: but how shall it be proved or disproved,

* I once thought it possible that they might be parasitical upon this genus, but I speedily discarded this idea as merely a vague hypothesis.