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all seasons watched the same ant-cities during the last twelve years, and I know that what I stated in my former letter is true. I visited the same cities yesterday, and found the crop of ant-rice growing finely, and exhibiting also the signs of high cultivation, and not a blade of any other kind of grass or weed was to be seen within twelve inches of the circular row of ant-rice."

In his second letter Dr. Lincecum proceeds to give some account of what he terms the "Horticultural Ant," which appears to be identical with the "Cutting Ant," *Ecodoma mexicana*, Sm., described by Mr. S. B. Buckley in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' 1860, p. 233\*; but as his account does not contain any important additional observations, it is here omitted.

Mr. Buckley also describes (*l. c.* p. 445), the "Agricultural" or "Mount-making Ant," although his account of its habits will be found to differ in several respects from that given by Dr. Lincecum.

Descriptions of some New Species of Ants from the Holy Land, with a Synonymic List of others previously described. By FREDERICK SMITH, Esq., Assistant in the Zoological Department, British Museum. Communicated by DANL. HANBURY, Esq., F.L.S.

[Read April 4, 1861.]

THE ants which form the subject of the present paper were collected in Syria and Palestine by Dr. J. D. Hooker and Mr. Daniel Hanbury, during a visit of a few weeks to those countries in September and October last. The species, though only ten in number, are part of a fauna replete with interest: all the productions, in fact, of the Holy Land are so worthy of our attention, that he who adds even the smallest number of species to the list does not work in vain.

I am not prepared to say how many, or even if any, of the species of Ants forming the present list have been recorded as indigenous to Palestine; but in one or two cases the knowledge of the geographical distribution of ants is rendered highly interesting. Not only do we here find species common to Southern Europe, but in *Formica brunnea* and *Tapinoma erraticum* we recognize insects found even in the vicinity of our own metropolis. A few observa-

\* A notice of this paper will be found in the *Annals & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 3 ser. vi. p. 386.