

tions on the habits of one or two species are added in the hope of contributing to the dissemination of a knowledge of the marvellous history of the economy of this most interesting family of insects.

Fam. FORMICIDÆ, *Leach.*

Gen. FORMICA, *Linn.*

FORMICA COMPRESSA. *F. nigra*, thorace compresso, antennis apice femoribusque rufis, capite maximo.

*Formica compressa*, *Fabr. Ent. Syst.* ii. 353. 2.; *Latr. Fourm.* p. 111.

This species is found in Egypt, in most parts of India, in China, and I have also seen examples from the Philippines. The *worker major* differs greatly in form from the *worker minor*; it is nearly seven lines in length, is black, with the base of the legs pale red, its head being larger and wider than the abdomen. The other form of the worker is smaller, the thorax and legs pale, the head oblong and narrower than the abdomen, the latter being frequently more or less pale at the base. Taken on the north shore of the Dead Sea.

FORMICA VIATICA. Sanguinea, opaca, antennis pedibusque rufobrunneo; abdomine nigro-fusco.

*Formica viatica*, *Fabr. Ent. Syst.* ii. 356. 27; *Syst. Piez.* p. 404. 33. ♀.

—*Formica bicolor*, *Fabr. Ent. Syst.* ii. 351. 5; *Syst. Piez.* p. 398.

♂.—*Formica megalochola*, *Foerst. Verh. d. naturh. Ver. d. Rheinl.*

vii. 485. ♀.—*Cataglyphis Fairmairei*, *Foerst. Verh. d. naturh. Ver. d.*

*Rheinl.* vii. 485. ♂.—*Monocombus viaticus*, *Mayr, Form. Austr.*

p. 110. 1.

This ant and the *Atta cephalotes*, according to the information that I have been able to obtain, are usually, if not always, found in the same localities; and it would appear that, in some degree, they are dependent on each other. It is now a well-ascertained fact, that other species, in the fulfilment of their economy, require the aid of a distinct race, or rather are dependent on slave-labour for the rearing of their young brood, and for the performance of many other offices connected with the duties of their formicarium.

The connexion between the *F. viatica* and *Atta cephalotes* appears to be similar to that which exists between *F. sanguinea* and *F. fusca*. The substance of the following account was communicated by M. Roussel to Dr. Nylander. M. Roussel observes that both species are common in Algeria, that they live in numerous societies, and construct their formicaria usually in banks, frequently at road-sides. It would appear that fierce combats take place occasionally between the *Formica* and the *Atta*, the former being always victorious, and carrying off captive numbers of the *Atta*, which henceforth become the nurse-slaves of *F. viatica*. M. Roussel frequently observed evidences of fierce encounters between these species of ants, having found the ground in the vicinity of the nests of the *Atta*