when the thorns, forwarded in a letter, were received by Mr. Hutchinson's mother, some of the ants were still alive and active, after having been at least six weeks on their journey; so that, calculating from the time the thorns were collected in the Weenen district of Natal, at a spot one hundred and twenty miles from the coast, in all probability the ants had been two months in reaching their destination, thus showing a wonderful tenacity of life in these insects.

Subsequent to the reception of the first parcel of thorns a second supply has been received, in which it was found that many of the ants were still alive. Two of these thorns were sent to me, when, on cutting one open, I had the pleasure of finding the three sexes. Figures of each are given in the plate that illustrates this paper.

One circumstance that I observed may possibly, to some extent, account for the fact of some of the ants being alive when they reached England. I noticed that the abdomen of several specimens was mutilated, a hole being observable on the upper surface of them. This gave rise to the suggestion in my mind of the possibility of the ants having fed upon each other. This is, however, a matter of entire uncertainty; but that they could easily gnaw holes through the integument of the abdomen is proved by the fact of their perforating the thorns, which are of a much harder consistency.

Among the thorns sent, one or more were tenanted by a distinct species of ant, *Pseudomyrma natalensis*. These also were alive when received, the majority being females.

Previous to finding the sexes of *Meranoplus intrudens* in the acacia thorn, I was unacquainted with the male of any species of that genus; it was, therefore, very gratifying to find that in this genus of *Cryptoceridæ* the male sex does not differ in form so entirely from the others as it is found to do in the genus *Cryptocerus;* on the contrary, it greatly resembles the worker: it has however ocelli, which the worker has not. The female is distinguished by an elongated abdomen, a more ovate form of thorax, and having, like the male, both wings and ocelli.

An interesting circumstance connected with the opening of the acacia spine that contained the three sexes of *Meranoplus*, was that of my finding with them a small bee belonging to the exotic genus *Allodape*. This genus of bees is closely allied to that of *Ceratina*, the habit of the latter being to perforate the pith of dead bramble stems.