

of South Island. It has undoubtedly been carried to the Chatham Islands by man (Brown, 1958). (It is further likely that *Monomorium rapaëense* Wheeler (1936) of Rapa Island in the Austral group, is conspecific with some New Zealand form belonging to the present *M. antarcticum* complex. If this should be so the fact that New Zealand and Rapa were both important whaling ports in the nineteenth century may be significant with regard to the dispersal of this form.)

Material examined: RAOUL ISLAND: Crater: nest in warm soil beside fumarole, June 3, 1956. Four workers without further data from the M. C. Z. collection.

The M. C. Z. specimens were studied by Wheeler in preparing his 1935 paper and were probably collected by the W. R. B. Oliver expedition to Raoul Island during 1907-08. Wheeler apparently intended using these specimens as the types of a new species, to be described in a later paper which, however, was never published due to his death. It seems unlikely that they are specifically separate from some North Island samples of the *antarcticum* complex, and they have almost certainly been introduced to Raoul from New Zealand.

The Kermadec ant fauna is thus characterized by a lack of endemic or native species and includes forms derived either from tropical Polynesia, or the nearest large land area, and known to have capacities for passive dispersal by man. The faunal tally of only three species is probably well below the possible maximum carrying capacity of the island (see Wilson, 1961). Although the present human settlement on Raoul consists only of the staff of a weather station, there have been several attempts to colonize it in the past. The parties concerned are known to have travelled from Fiji and New Zealand, and to have carried much produce as well as plants and seeds, thus providing adequate passage for ants. In its relationships and depauperate nature the ant fauna resembles those of other insect groups which have been studied (see Miller, 1956 p. 420 for references).

Some interesting comparisons can be made with the faunas of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, which are about the same size as Raoul, and lie at approximately the same latitude, but much closer to Australia.

The ants of these three islands may be grouped for analysis into three classes.

*Class I.* Species which are probably native to the island concerned. This category includes forms found also in Australia, and endemic species (all of which are clearly derived from Australian stock).