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**Article VIII. — THE ANTS OF THE BAHAMAS, WITH A LIST
OF THE KNOWN WEST INDIAN SPECIES.**

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PLATE VII.

The ant fauna of the Bahamas has remained all but unknown up to the present time. Only four species, so far as I am able to ascertain, have been recorded from these islands: Emery has mentioned *Pheidole megacephala* and *Tapinoma pruinosum*, and has described an interesting *Macromischa* (*M. pastinifera*) as occurring in the Bahamas, and Forel has added the description of another species (*M. lucayensis*) based on a single female specimen.

During May and June, 1904, the American Museum of Natural History organized an expedition to the Bahamas primarily for the purpose of enabling Mr. Frank M. Chapman to make a study of the habits and secure specimens of the American flamingo. I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. Chapman on this expedition, for which Mr. Nathan Bill of Springfield, Mass., very generously placed his schooner, the *Gloria* at our disposal. Ants were collected in many localities on Andros Island, the largest but least frequently visited, and on New Providence, the best-known of the islands. Undoubtedly, had I been able to visit the islands outlying to the eastward and northward (Exuma, Abaco, etc.) I should have found several additional species or varieties; but those enumerated in the present paper in all probability fairly represent the ant fauna of the whole archipelago. They will, at any rate, constitute a basis for a future more detailed study of the taxonomy and distribution of these insects in the Bahamas.

Among the material collected I find only ten species new to science, and all of these are more or less closely related to well-known West Indian forms. Most interesting, perhaps, are two new species of *Macromischa*, a genus which seems to have its centre of distribution in the West Indies, a *Trachymyrmex*, a twig-inhabiting *Tapinoma*, and the rediscovery of *Camponotus inaequalis* originally described by Roger from Cuba. Several new subspecies and varieties are recorded, but a full appreciation of their value as geographical races must depend on a future biological survey of the whole Bahaman archipelago and the Antilles. As would be expected, there is a close affinity, amounting in many cases to identity, between the Andros and New Providence ants with those of Cuba on the one hand, and those of Florida on the other. Certain species, however, like