

*Schistocerca* and two of *Sphingonotus*, each of which is represented by a recognizable subspecies or variety on each of several islands. The resemblance to the two species of *Camponotus* is further shown by the fact that *Schistocerca melanocera* is represented by two subspecies on Albemarle and that two forms of *Sphingonotus tetraensis* occur on Barrington and two on Indefatigable.

On the whole, the ant-fauna of the Galapagos is decidedly poor for islands lying on the equator and possessed of an abundant and varied flora. Dr. Williams informs me that even the colonies of the species which do occur on the larger islands are far from numerous and are found only after diligent search. Only one or two forms have been taken on most of the islands. Chatham has six, Charles and Albemarle each seven, and Indefatigable eight, but even these numbers indicate a very limited fauna. At first sight this might be regarded as evidence that the ant-fauna was accidentally introduced and had lingered on, undergoing slow varietal and subspecific modification in response to the different physical conditions on the various islands. In my opinion, however, no such conclusion can be legitimately advanced. The poverty of the fauna is more probably due to adverse conditions, as ants are not fond of volcanic soil, probably because it gives off deleterious gases in the process of decomposition, or does not afford proper nesting sites, as would be the case with the great stretches of hard lava said to occur on some of the Galapagos islands. The climatic conditions, moreover, are decidedly unfavorable, as the littoral zone of the islands up to 800 feet is very arid, while the more densely wooded portions, at higher levels, are cool and damp. I have pointed out in other publications that moisture coupled with a low temperature is very unfavorable to ant-life and have called attention to the meagre faunas of such regions as New Zealand, Great Britain and the Selkirk Mountains of British America in support of this contention.

The bearing of my study of the Galapagos ants on the two great rival hypotheses that have been advanced to account for the origin of the islands and of their biota, is indecisive. A study of the literature shows that the problem is still far from solution and that probably as much evidence