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THE OCCURRENCE OF *FORMICA FUSCA* L.
IN SUMATRA.

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In a preceding number of Psyche (Vol. 29, Aug. 1922, p. 175) I cited the occurrence of two common North American ants, *Formica fusca* L. and *F. neogagates* Emery, as having been taken by Dr. J. W. Chapman at Dumaguete, on the Island of Negros in the Philippines, and conjectured that they might have been introduced by commerce. Recently I have come to doubt the provenience of the specimens to which I referred. It seems that when he left the Bussey Institution to teach at the Silliman Institute in Dumaguete, Dr. Chapman was supplied by our laboratory with a number of empty vials to be used in collecting ants and other insects. Possibly two of these vials contained some specimens of *F. fusca* and *neogagates* that had been collected near Boston by one of the students and had been accidentally included among the material amassed by Dr. Chapman near the Silliman Institute. Since all this material was collected in a small area he did not provide the individual vials with locality labels. Until, therefore, the species of *Formica* above mentioned are again taken at Dumaguete, it is inadvisable to include them among the Philippine ant-fauna. No such doubt, however, can arise in regard to the species of *Formica* discussed in the following paragraphs.

Among a number of ants collected for me by Dr. David Fairchild and his son Graham Fairchild in Northern Sumatra, I find a series of twelve workers, which evidently belong to the common circumpolar *Formica fusca*, though they may be regarded as representing a distinct variety, var. *fairchildi* var. nov. These specimens were taken by Dr. Fairchild March 8th, 1926 above Kota Dah, at an altitude of 4000 ft., in a pine forest. Careful comparison with many specimens of the typical *fusca* reveals only the following slight differences: Body averaging slightly smaller (4-5 mm.); funicular joints of the antennæ a little shorter. Border of petiole distinctly sharper and more compressed. Bristles on the flexor surfaces of the middle and