

*Plagiolepis longipes* (Jerdon).

1851. *Formica longipes*, Jerdon, *op. cit.*, p. 122.  
 1894. *Plagiolepis longipes*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 414.  
 1903. *Plagiolepis longipes*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 320, fig. 97.  
 1925. *Plagiolepis (Anoplolepsis) longipes*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

The species is cosmopolitan in its distribution. It is believed that it has been disseminated by commerce throughout the tropical regions of the old world. It lives in nests tunnelled under stones, and is common in all parts of India except in the dry portions of the North-Western Provinces, Punjab and Central India. A single worker from Misty Hill, east side of Dawna Hills, was recorded in the results of the Abor expedition by Wheeler.

## TRIBE: PRENOLEPIDINI Forel.

*Prenolepis longicornis* (Latr).

- 1802 *Formica longicornis*, Latreille, *Hist. Nat. Fourm.*, p. 113.  
 1894. *Prenolepis longicornis*, Forel, *op. cit.*, pp. 406, 407.  
 1903. *Prenolepis longicornis*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 326.  
 1925. *Prenolepis (Paratrechina) longicornis*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 217.

The species is the common ant of Calcutta and lives in the crevices of the buildings. The workers may be found throughout the day prowling round food material and carrying away food to their nests. They generally change their nests following any sudden changes of weather, especially during the rains. When changing the nest, they move in columns with pupæ in their mouths and accompanied by the Gryllide *Myrmecophila prenolepidis*, a species of small beetle and the big female ants who have cast off their wings. This Myrmecophilous gryllid was observed by Assmuth at Bombay; but the Myrmecophilous beetle mentioned here has not been noted before in their company; unfortunately I have not been able to identify it. It is interesting to note that the beetle does not accompany the ants when they go out foraging. It lives within the nest of the ant but follows them spontaneously when the latter change their nest. Several beetles and *M. prenolepidis* occur in any colony of the ants.

The species is cosmopolitan in distribution and is quite common in Bengal and in other parts of India.

## TRIBE: ECOPHYLLINI Forel.

*Ecophylla smaragdina* (Fabr).

1775. *Formica smaragdina*, Fabricius, *Syst. Ent.*, p. 828.  
 1894. *Ecophylla smaragdina*, Forel, *op. cit.*, p. 400.  
 1903. *Ecophylla smaragdina*, Bingham, *op. cit.*, p. 311.  
 1925. *Ecophylla smaragdina*, Emery, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

The ants of this species are very common on trees and shrubs in Bengal and also occur in other parts of India. They build nests of leaves fastened together by silk spun by their larvæ. They are gregarious in their habits, and often several colonies, each having a separate nest, may be found living amicably together on the same tree. The species is peculiar in having the females of the same nest differently coloured. The colourations vary from emerald-green to pale yellow.

They are partial to insect-food and the workers may be seen carrying living grubs and dead insects to their nests. A number of larvæ of moths and butterflies have also been found living in their nests. Often a group of both the mature and immature forms of the insect *Hilda bengalensis* Dist. (family *Fulgoridæ*), lives in association with these ants on the shoots of plants. The ants lick up the cellular secretion on the bodies of these insects and in return protect them. The ants of this species are much feared for their bites. In Calcutta it is mimicked by the spider *Amycia forticeps* (Cambr.), which was first observed by Ridley in Malaya in its company. The spiders have two prominent black spots on their abdomen and being of yellow colour simulate the appearance of the ants. The nature of the mimicry is also mentioned by Hingston.<sup>1</sup> Both male and female spiders occur on trees inhabited by the ants.

<sup>1</sup> Hingston, R. W. G., *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, ii, pp. 844-848 (1927).