

On a small Collection of Ants made by Dr. F. W. Edwards in Argentina. By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., &c.

THIS small paper deals with a few ants taken by Dr. F. W. Edwards in Argentina, Territory Rio Negro, in 1926, which have recently been handed over for me to study. They consist of nine species, of which no less than five are new to science. The chief interest in connection with this small collection of ants rests on the fact that there are three species of *Acanthomyops* Mayr (= *Lasius* F., nec Jurine) present. The ants of this genus were known heretofore to belong only to the purely north temperate fauna, being common to the Palæarctic (Europe and India) and Nearctic Regions. (N. America). There exists, however, some relationship between the faunas of western U.S.A. (Lower California &c.) and Chile. My friend Dr. Jordan tells me the best-known example is the Carabid genus *Ceroglossus*, which is closely related to the northern genus *Carabus*. It occurs only in Chile, and there is no *Carabus* anywhere in South America, there being also no *Carabus* in Central America. Dr. Jordan suggests that the explanation, which the geologists will not admit, is a former land-connection west of the present coast of S. and C. America, from Lower California to Chile—perhaps a chain of islands. It has also been suggested that such insects as these may have extended their range from N. America along the chain of mountains of the Andes. It is most interesting that there is the same large gap in the distribution of *Acanthomyops* as in *Carabus*.

The following is a list of the ants collected, with descriptions of the new species:—

MYRMICINÆ.

*Pogonomyrmex (Pogonomyrmex) ater*, sp. n.

♀.—Jet-black, shining, legs and funiculi of antennæ brown, tarsi and trochanters lighter, whole body furnished with dark, longer and shorter, bristly hairs, erect on head and thorax, suberect on rest of body and legs.

*Head* rectangular, covered with raised longitudinal ridges, the spaces between very closely covered with a network of punctures; *mandibles* strongly longitudinally striate with some large scattered punctures in the striæ,