

A

514 Miss L. E. Cheesman and Mr. W. C. Crawley on

LXVI.—*A Contribution towards the Insect Fauna of French Oceania*.—Part III. Formicidæ. By L. EVELYN CHEESMAN, F.E.S., F.Z.S., and W. C. CRAWLEY.

THE following collection of ants was made by one of us in 1925 upon four of the Marquesan islands and Faka-rava (an atoll of the Tuamotu Archipelago) while a member of the 'St. George' Expedition; and also upon the Society Islands, Tahiti, Raiatea, and Bora Bora in the same year after leaving the expedition.

The ants of these islands have not previously been worked out, one species only—*Lasius claviger*—being recorded from Tahiti. The list of species numbers twenty-five—Ponerinæ two, Myrmicinæ thirteen, Dolichoderinæ three, Camponotinæ seven. Of these, seven species are tropical forms with a wide distribution, being carried everywhere by commerce, and occurring throughout the majority of island groups of the Pacific—*Pheidole megacephala*, F., *Monomorium floricola*, Jerd., *Solenopsis geminata*, var. *rufa*, Jerd., *Anoplolepis longipes*, Jerd., *Tetramorium simillimum*, Sm., *T. guineense*, F., and *Technomyrmex albipes*, Sm. The remaining species belong to an oceanic subfauna including one new island race.

Records of these species from other island groups are added, and for the remainder of their synonymy, when this is lengthy, reference is given to Emery's monographs in the 'Genera Insectorum.'

Ants were extremely abundant upon all the above islands, especially in the inhabited areas. One species would be usually preponderant, but not always the same species; in some cases the dominant species would differ in different localities of the same island. Upon all those of the Society Islands *Pheidole oceanica nigriscapa*, var. *tahitiana*, sp. n., and *Monomorium floricola* swarmed on the coasts, firmly established as house-ants in all the villages visited. *Pheidole megacephala*, F., held a like position on the Marquesas Islands. On the atoll Faka-rava *Solenopsis geminata*, var. *rufa*, Jerd., was the most abundant about the huts; *Paratrechina bourbonica*, subsp. *bengalensis*, For., although also abundant, was not seen near habitations. On the shores of Tahiti and Bora Bora very large and vigorous colonies of *Solenopsis geminata*, var. *rufa*, Jerd., *Anoplolepis longipes*, and *Pheidole oceanica nigriscapa*, var. *tahitiana*, Santschi, were in close proximity—the last always preponderant. In