

other parts of the world the two former species have a name for displacing one another (Wheeler, 'Ants,' p. 155, 1910). Of those species occurring in the interior of the islands *Cardiocondyla emeryi*, For., and *Plagiolepis angusti*, Emery, were taken only on the northern coast-hills of Tahiti, about 2 to 3 miles inland. *Tetramorium pacificum*, Mayr, was taken only on the borders of Lake Vaihira on the same island 8 miles inland, and *Rogeria stigmatica*, var. *sublaevinodis*, Em., was taken only at the head of a valley in the centre of N.W. Raiatea.

Although the coast-belts of Tahiti literally swarmed with predaceous species of ants, there was no evidence that they were destroying the local insect-fauna, as one might have supposed to be the case. Insects of all kinds might be found in close proximity to the nests, but were apparently ignored unless special attention was drawn to them. For example, there were prosperous colonies of four species at least of predatory ants around my hut at Patutua, Tahiti, an enormous colony of *Pheidole oceanica nigriscapa*, var. *tahitiana*, sp. n., being established directly under it. A few yards from the hut was an area of ground covered in tangled undergrowth of plants from which I continually collected insects in all stages of growth. Worker-ants explored the entire neighbourhood, and yet numbers of insects could be found near at hand. There can be no supposition of any immunity against ants on the part of such insects, because when I brought any specimens, living or dead, into the hut it was necessary to take special precautions against ants: boxes, table, and shelves had to be periodically soaked in creosote, for no specimen was safe from their scouts. One can only surmise that while ants can exploit human habitations which yield unlimited supplies of concentrated food, they will systematically scour these in preference to hunting for insects.

There is one curious fact to note concerning *Anoplolepis longipes*—that whereas ants of this species were to be found in abundance on coral-protected shores, scavenging on the beach close up to the tide-line, they were never to be seen near the waves on exposed beaches. They were seemingly aware of the danger of being caught by heavy rollers on such beaches, and when present were always well out of reach of the breakers.