

Article VIII.—ANTS FROM MOOREA, SOCIETY ISLANDS.

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During the winter of 1906–1907 a collection of ants was made for the American Museum on the little island of Moorea (Eimeo), near Tahiti, in the Society group by Mr. G. A. McTavish. The collection comprises 13 species, all of small size. Five of them (*Monomorium pharaonis*, *Solenopsis geminata*, *Plagiolepis longipes*, *Prenolepis longicornis* and *Tapinoma melanocephalum*) are well known cosmopolites; three others (*Tetramorium pacificum*, *Technomyrmex albipes* and *Prenolepis obscura*) seem to have a wide distribution among the South Sea Islands; three species of *Pheidole* cannot be identified as they are represented only by single sexual individuals; one species (*Ponera perkinsi*) has hitherto been recorded only from the Sandwich Islands; and one (*Plagiolepis mactavishi*), closely related to certain Indian and East African species, is here described for the first time.

Subfamily PONERINÆ.

1. *Ponera perkinsi* Forel.—Several winged females agreeing well with Forel's description of the types from Hawaii. Without the workers, however, the identification must remain somewhat doubtful.

Subfamily MYRMICINÆ.

2. *Monomorium pharaonis* (L).—Six dealated females and numerous workers.

3. *Solenopsis geminata rufa* (Jerdon).—Several major and minor workers of the typical red color and with a prominent mesosternal tooth.

4. *Pheidole* sp.—A dealated female allied to *Ph. megacephala* and perhaps belonging to a subspecies of this form, but not to be identified without the soldier.

5. *Pheidole* sp.—A single winged female, measuring only 4 mm.

6. *Pheidole* sp. A single male, too small to be the male of No. 4 and too large to belong to No. 5.

7. *Tetramorium pacificum* Mayr.—One dealated female and five workers.

Subfamily DOLICHODERINÆ.

8. *Tapinoma melanocephalum* (Fabr.).—Several workers.
 9. *Technomyrmex albipes* (F. Smith).—Eight workers and a male.

Subfamily CAMPONOTINÆ.

10. *Plagiolepis longipes* (Jerdon).—Numerous workers.
 11. *Plagiolepis mactavishi* sp. nov.

Worker. Length 1–1.25 mm.

Head a little longer than broad, as broad in front as behind, with convex sides and distinctly excised posterior border. Clypeus carinate. Antennal scapes reaching a little beyond the posterior corners of the head; joints 2 and 3 of funiculus very small, broader than long; succeeding joints a little longer than broad, except the last, which is as long as the three preceding joints taken together. Thorax from above fully three times as long as broad, shaped like that of *P. pygmaea*, i. e., hour-glass shaped when seen from above, with deep mesothoracic constriction especially on the sides. This constriction is marked on the dorsal side by a transverse groove which divides the segment into two pieces of nearly equal size and of similar shape. Pronotum somewhat hemispherical; epinotum truncated behind and nearly as broad as the pronotum; in profile with subequal base and declivity, the former rounded, the latter flattened or concave and sloping. Petiole small and narrow, with its node much inclined forward, its upper border acute in profile, transverse and entire when seen from behind. Gaster larger, elongate elliptical, not very pointed at the tip. Legs of moderate length.

Surface of body smooth and shining.

Pubescence and hairs white; the former sparse, most conspicuous on the head and appendages; the hairs few in number, long, suberect and confined to the clypeus and gaster.

Honey yellow; the gaster and appendages a little paler; teeth of mandibles, thoracic sutures and two spots on the postero-lateral corners of the first gastric segment, dark brown.

Described from 10 workers.

This species is closely related to *P. exigua* Forel of India and to *P. alluaudi* Emery and *brunni* Forel of Eastern Africa. *P. exigua* is darker in color than *mactavishi*, has shorter antennal scapes and a shorter thorax, with more angular humeri and narrower epinotum. In *alluaudi* the antennal scapes and thorax are much longer, the petiole has a rounded upper border and the two brown spots on the first gastric segment are much larger. *P. brunni* is larger than *mactavishi*, with rounded petiolar border, and dark markings (spots or bands) on the posterior portions of all the gastric segments. *P. brunni* and *alluaudi* also have the antennal funiculi infuscated towards the tip and more robust.

12. *Prenolepis longicornis* (Latr.).—Eight females and numerous workers.

13. *Prenolepis obscura vaga* Forel.—Three workers and two winged females. The former agree very closely with a type specimen from the Bismarck Archipelago received from Professor Forel. The females measure 4 mm. The body is smooth and shining especially on the mesonotum, and covered with gray pubescence which is most abundant on the head and gaster. Pilosity and color as in the worker. Wings slightly smoky, with pale brownish veins and stigma.