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*Ants and Myrmecophiles at Bordighera.*

Myrmecophilous Notes for 1925.

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### Ants and Myrmecophiles at Bordighera.

By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S., etc.

(Concluded from p. 8.)

DOLICHODERINAE.—17. *Tapinoma nigerrimum*, Nyl.—This species was very abundant at Bordighera, both on the sandy and rocky places on the small hills above the sea, and in the river beds near; but not in the olive woods nor in the places visited in the neighbourhood. The ♂♂ ran about all over the place, and the nests were found in various habitats—under stones; in the ground with small cones above formed of earth grains; in mounds of earth; and formed of leaves, buds, etc. On January 29th I dug up one large nest deep in the ground; it contained thousands of ♂♂ and one queen was found. On January 31st I noticed a number of ♂♂ holding something at an entrance to their nest, which was situated in a bank. When disturbed the ♂♂ ran away, and what they had been holding proved to be a dealated ♀, quite unhurt, and very active. This recalled to my mind Dr. Santschi's description of how the ♀ of *Wheeleriella santschii*, For., is "arrested" by the ♂♂ of this same *Tapinoma*, before she gains admittance to their nest! In one large colony in a nest built in a grass tussock of bits of grass, buds, etc., which contained vast numbers of ♂♂, and many sex larvae, only one queen was found; but in another colony situated in a bank very many dealated ♀♀ were present. On this occasion a number of ♂♂ was observed carrying a small snail shell. A vast colony occurred on the banks of the river, the ants had built up two large earth mounds, and the ♂♂—many of which were very large and black—were all over the whole area.

FORMICINAE.—18. *Plagiolepis pygmaea*, Latr.—This tiny species was common everywhere, nesting under stones, tiles, and in the sand, etc., though much digging never produced a ♀. ♂♂ often turned up with other ants, and when the nests of the latter were being dug up.

19. *Camponotus (Myrmoturba) maculatus*, F., subsp. *aethiops*, Latr.—On February 2nd a large colony of this ant was dug up, the nest being situated under two deeply embedded stones—♂♂ of all sizes occurred, and deep down ♀♀ were found. Five *Lepismas* and numerous *Cyphodeirus albinos* were seen in this nest. This ant was subsequently found on several occasions under stones; and at Dolceacqua on March 6th, ♂♂ were seen running on the grass growing on the first floor of the fine old ruined Castle.

20. *Camponotus (Tanaemyrma) sylvaticus*, Ol.—This ant was first seen on February 5th, when a single ♂ was found under a stone. On February 16th a single ♀ was observed sunning itself on the rock wall by the side of the road; and on the same day a small new colony consisting of a large queen, a few small ♂♂, and some small larvae was found under a stone. In this nest *Cyphodeirus albinos*, *Platyarthrus hoffmanseggi*, and a *Lepisma* occurred. Subsequently numerous colonies were seen under stones, and *Lepismas* in most of them. Very many ♀♀ with very bright red heads and thoraces were present in one colony; and on the same date, February 17th, a number of a Coccid (*Eriococcus bezzii*, ?) occurred in another. The ♂♂ of this ant when disturbed have a curious habit of raising

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the gaster and holding it erect, which gives them a very un-*Camponotus*-like appearance.

21. *Camponotus (Orthonotomyrmex) lateralis*, Ol.—On January 30th a large colony of this really beautiful ant—with its bright red head contrasted with its shining black body—was found under a stone at the foot of an olive tree. It contained many ♂♂ and larvae, and numerous ♂♂ and winged ♀♀. A large *Lepisma* was taken in this nest, and small Acari were noticed on some of the ♂♂. A colony, which also contained ♂♂ and winged ♀♀, was situated under the same stone as *Pheidole pallidula* at Ospedaletti on February 6th. When disturbed the *Pheidoles* attacked the *Camponoti* with the greatest fury, numbers of them fastening on to their legs, wings, and antennae. Various other colonies were subsequently found. In one situated in an olive tree, a queen and many winged ♀♀ were present; in another under a stone, only ♂♂, and no winged ♀♀, occurred. A colony between two stones contained a queen, many large ♂♂, and larvae; but no winged sexes were present.

22. *Acanthomyops (Donisthorpea) emarginatus*, Ol.—At Sasso, on February 10th, ♂♂ of this species were observed walking along on a stone wall; and the nest was found to be situated under stones at the foot of the wall. On March 6th ♂♂ were noticed on the walls of the ruined castle at Dolceacqua; and in larger numbers on walls on the outskirts of the town.

23. *Acanthomyops (Donisthorpea) brunneus*, Latr. ?—On February 6th a large colony of this ant was found under a stone at Ospedaletti. In the field I took them to be *A. (D.) niger*. A ♀ was captured, running over the root of an olive tree at Bordighera; and two large colonies occurred under stones on the highest part of Monte Nero on February 24th. Again I took them to be *A. (D.) niger*; and I am very well acquainted with *A. (D.) brunneus* in England! They are much darker than our species, the head is quite black, and the rest of the body dark brown; but there are no outstanding hairs on the tibiae. I propose to call them *A. (D.) brunneus* var. *nigro-brunneus*. They are perhaps the same form (from Genoa) which Emery (*l.c.* 167) doubtfully referred to var. *alieno-brunnea*, Forel.

24. *Formica fusca*, L.—on March 6th a colony was found under a stone at Dolceacqua; but I never observed the species at Bordighera. In this nest the small spider, and a specimen of *Anthicus longicollis* occurred. I may here mention that though I was collecting Coleoptera all the time I was at Bordighera and took every species I saw, the only occasions on which I saw any *Anthici* were when examining ants' nests!

In conclusion I must express my best thanks to my colleague Dr. F. Santschi for naming some of the more difficult forms.

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I have written a separate account of the work done in connection with the ant *Acanthomyops (Donisthorpea) brunneus*, Latr., but a few other observations, and records with ants, still remain to be published.