

of pigeon peas, *Gossypium tomentosum*, avocado, dead cotton, algaroba, dead sugar cane, and *Leucaena glauca*.

In addition to these species, there are four specimens of *Heterobostrichus aequalis* (Waterhouse) in Bishop Museum which were taken by J. C. Bridwell from the wood of a packing case imported from Manila to Honolulu, November 1, 1919. I have not included this species in the keys because this is the only record of its interception that has come to my attention.

Argentine Ant in Hawaii

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The Argentine ant, *Iridomyrmex humilis* Mayr, has been discovered in the islands for the first time well established at Fort Shafter in Honolulu. Residents of the area stated that the ants had caused considerable trouble in their houses since late spring or early summer, thus indicating that the ant had become well established several months ago. A preliminary survey of the area showed that the ants were very abundant and widespread at Fort Shafter with numerous strongly developed colonies established. Where the Argentine ants were numerous, other ants, particularly *Pheidole megacephala* (Fabricius), were scarce or not found. The shallow nests were common in the soil around the bases of trees, under trash and in debris in holes and cavities in trees. No other ants were found on trees, shrubs or at flower blossoms on which the Argentine ant foraged.

The Argentine ant is commonly intercepted at quarantine in goods coming from California, and it appears unusual that the species has not hitherto become established in Hawaii.

The development and spread of this ant in Hawaii will present some interesting biological, ecological and economical problems. In those regions where it is established on the continent it is a serious pest in house, garden and field. Not only does the ant cause considerable annoyance and eat sweet foods and meats wherever available, but it tends such honeydew producing insects as aphids, mealybugs and scale insects. The ants not only carry honeydew producing insects from plant to plant, but they also reduce the efficiency of parasites of honeydew producing insects. Wheeler (Revised List of Hawaiian Ants, Bishop Museum Occasional Papers, 10(21): 8, 1934) writing of the Argentine ant said: "Should it eventually secure a foothold in the islands, we may look forward to a repetition of what has occurred in Madeira and the Canary Islands, where it has not only exterminated *Pheidole megacephala*, but has also practically wiped out the indigenous ant fauna at elevations below 3,000 feet, . . ."