

original home of this ant is India and that it has been carried to all parts of the tropics in ships. He shows that it has been accompanied in these wanderings by two myrmecophiles, a Lathridiid beetle (*Coluocera maderæ*) and a small cricket (*Myrmecophila acervorum* var. *flavocincta*.)

Notes on Collecting in Mexico.

By J. F. McCLENDON, University of Pa., Philadelphia.

In the summer of 1902, while seeking the cool plateau of Mexico as a quiet retreat to pursue my studies, I found near Guadalajara, Jalisco, some Neuropterous insects that were new to me, and the next summer planned a trip to Jalisco to collect insects and some other zoological specimens. Many of the specimens I took have been used in preparation of the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, and at the request of Dr. P. P. Calvert I give the following account of my trip:

On June 12, 1903, I crossed the border at Eagle Pass and reached Guadalajara by the Mexican International & Central Railways. Most of the suburbs of this city are covered by crops of corn and tobacco, but the ravine of the Santiago forms an admirable collecting ground for an entomologist, and here and in some deserted parks I spent most of my time. The altitude and the frequent rains of this season made the air very cool and most of the insects caught were nearctic, save at the bottom of the ravine, where, amid oranges, bananas and other tropical plants, are found many forms that have strayed from the hot shores of the Pacific. The further down the river I went, the more tropical forms were met with, but as the natives were not inclined to be civil, I did not go further than the Barranca de San Juan. One hideous night at that *hacienda* discouraged my scientific zeal, and I preferred to lose a few hours on mule back each day rather than repeat such an experience. I went up in the mountains as far as Zapotlanejo, about 20 miles east of Guadalajara on horseback, and succeeded in returning with some specimens. Although I did not

have to sleep in the *portal*, as at San Juan the best "room" I could get had no window.

In September I spent a week at Tuxpan, near the construction camp of that branch of the Mexican Central Railway and about 30 miles from the volcano of Colima. That was a lonely place, but the volcano, looking down on all the country round and expressing its varying moods in wreaths of white steam or black smoke or casting a red glow on the clouds at night, was a companion to me. Although much nearer the sea level, Tuxpan is cool in summer and has many nearctic besides tropical forms of insects. The leaf-cutter ant cuts roads through the grass and the Kelep ant swarms up the stems of shrubs in the same field. At this time I did not know that this large ant was the one introduced against the boll weevil, although I looked for the latter in vain. The natives of Tuxpan have some strange ceremonies developed from Indian dances and ideas gotten from Spanish missionaries, and the place is of interest to a tourist. Returning to Guadalajara I remained until the latter part of September, when I left the Republic.

A New Fossil Ant.

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Florissant, not far from Pike's Peak, in Colorado, has long been known as a wonderful locality for fossil plants and insects. It is, in fact, a sort of Tertiary Pompeii where the fauna and flora of an ancient period are almost perfectly preserved in fine mud and sand, ejected by the volcanoes which at that time were in full operation in the Rocky Mountain region. During the present year, collections have been made at Florissant by Judge J. Henderson and Dr. F. Ramaley, of the University of Colorado, and while most of the specimens are plants, there are a few insects. In the first railroad cutting east of Florissant was obtained an excellently preserved spider, *Clubiona arcana* Scudder, ♂; at a different place, the northwest corner of "Fossil Stump Hill," an ant was found belonging to an undescribed species.

***Ponera hendersoni* n. sp.**

♀. Length about 11 mm. ; black ; anterior wing about 8 mm. ; head rather small, length slightly over 2 mm. ; width of abdomen a little over 2 mm. Nervures strong and dark ; the venation is in general similar to that of *P. coarctata* Latr., (cf. Wheeler, Biol. Bull., 1900, p. 47), but differs as follows : Stigma longer and narrower, its lower edge nearly straight ; marginal cell longer, but not approaching so near the apex of the wing, the latter being also more produced ; costal cell broader in the middle, and giving off the basal nerve further from the stigma ; first submarginal cell long, though not as long as the marginal ; the first submarginal extends further basad than in *P. coarctata*, but not so far apicad, as the radial nerve is given off about the middle of the stigma, instead of beyond its middle as in *P. coarctata* ; first discoidal cell longer, being much longer than high, with the first recurrent nerve more oblique ; second submarginal cell about as in *P. coarctata*. Femora rather broad. The abdomen and other parts seem to present no distinctive features, except that the ocelli are smaller and closer together than in *P. coarctata*.

Named after the collector, who is a well-known student of Colorado palæontology. Type in the University of Colorado Museum ; it is intended to publish a figure later in connection with a general account of the Florissant collections.

Children, if you meet a cricket,
Please remember not to kick it ;
Not a youth whose nature's sweet'll
Strike a ladybug or beetle.

If a daddy longlegs passes,
Do not slay it (as alas ! is
Often done by wicked urchins,
Who deserve the soundest birchin's).

When a gnat—that lively hummer,
Which you'll hear when it is summer,
Comes a-buzzing round your hat, it
Is wrong to throw a pebble at it.

Do not think me sentimental
When I ask you to be gentle
With the insect population
Of our free and glorious nation.

If you're kind in this partic'lar,
They will buzz in your auric'lar ;
Every child, of course, can see
What a pleasure that will be.—London Globe.