













ment of apparently similar methods against the African Drivers (*Dorylus*), remarks — “Isn’t it extraordinarily interesting that two such different species of ants, but of precisely similar habits, should be attacked by parasites in the same way in South America and Uganda? If one thinks of it there is very little chance for an enemy to attack these ants, which are so active and ferocious and of wandering habits. . . . But what an extraordinarily fine adjustment to the habits of the ant! The method of gaining an entrance into the inaccessible nest reminds one rather of old stories such as the wooden horse of Troy, &c!” (Proc., 1914, p. cix.)

In the wonderful association discovered by Lamborn between the Lycaenid larva *Euliphyra mirifica* HOLL., and the African so-called “Tree-Driver” *Oecophylla*, the caterpillar living in the nest was defended by armour against attack and yet had to obtain food by thrusting its head and slender neck into the jaws of an ant which “made movements as if feeding it. Sometimes, too, when a large ant was feeding a small one, the latter retired in favour of a caterpillar.” In spite of all this solicitude the armour is certainly necessary, for Lamborn found that larvae which “happened to fall on their backs were immediately seized by the ants.” (Trans., 1913, pp. 450—456.) In attempting to understand such puzzling differences of behaviour on the part of the ants “the most helpful consideration is probably that suggested in conversation to the present writer by Prof. W. M. WHEELER, viz., that the ant community is so successful and affords so safe a retreat from the attacks of enemies, that ants are liable to be overwhelmed by the numbers of forms living under their protection. The uncertainty of their temper is probably one means by which this danger is prevented from becoming too great; for a species that seeks the shelter of the ants’ nest is itself taking terrible risks.” (Trans., 1913, p. 446.)

I have attempted in this brief sketch of a vast subject to bring together a few important observations<sup>5</sup>, nearly all brought to my notice by friends, keen naturalists who are convinced by their experience of animal life in the tropics that ants are specially protected insects and that the widespread mimicry of ants is advantageous. The observations here quoted are but samples of an immense mass of records consistent with these conclusions and I do not know of a single one opposed to them; for, as I maintained at the outset,

<sup>5</sup> References to further observations of the same kind are given in Proc., 1924, pp. lxxviii—lxxi.

