

## THE FORMICIDAE OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

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DR. O. W. RICHARDS, having spent three weeks on the Island of Jersey in 1946 (July 31–August 17), asked me to identify the ants he captured during his stay there. In publishing the list of the species he took it seems to me to be an opportunity to review what is known up to date concerning the *Formicidae* of the Channel Islands as a whole.

It would appear that very few entomologists have collected ants on these Islands, and very little has been written on the subject. Saunders, in 1902 and 1903, published lists of the Aculeate Hymenoptera of Jersey, and he wrote: "It is an interesting fact, and one that shows how much more closely the fauna of Jersey approximates to that of the Continent than do those of the other islands, that in Guernsey and Alderney only one species is recorded which is not also found in Britain, whereas in Jersey fifteen such species have occurred . . ." He wrote of the ants: "The commonest ants in the south of the Island are *Formica rufa* and *fusca*, and *Lasius niger*. . . . *Lasius flavus* curiously enough has not turned up in Jersey although Luff records it as 'common in Guernsey'."

In the following list those species not found in Britain are marked with an asterisk.

*Myrmica rubra* L. (*ruginodis* Nyl.).—St. Aubins, Jersey (Saunders).

*M. scabrinodis* Nyl.—Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney, abundant (Luff); St. Aubins, Jersey (Saunders); La Scarpe, Jersey, on overhanging clay sea-cliff, La Coupe (5.viii), and running on sand dunes, Gorey (8.viii) (Richards).

*M. sabuleti* Mein.—Quenevais, Jersey (18.viii), on sand dunes (Richards).

*Monomorium pharaonis* L.—Common in some houses in St. Peter Port, Guernsey (Luff).

*Leptothorax tuborum* F.—"Two specimens taken on April 4 at the Gouffre," Guernsey (Luff); on overhanging clay sea-cliff, La Coupe (5.viii), Jersey (Richards).

*L. nylanderii* Först.—Two ♀♀ taken in *Convolvulus* flowers near St. Aubins, Jersey (Saunders). Saunders also gives Guernsey.

\**L. unifasciatus* Latr.—On ivy on stone wall (10.viii), Archirondel, Jersey (Richards).

*Tetramorium caespitum* L.—Common on the coast, Guernsey (Luff); not uncommon on the cliffs, Alderney (Luff); Don Bridge