

[IV.]

## THE INSECT FAUNA.

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AMONG the memoranda handed to me by Mr. Hedley in connection with the insects collected at Funafuti, the following remark occurs:—"The collection brought back does scanty justice to the Entomological fauna of Funafuti, whose claims were, I fear, unduly subordinated to the demands of the Marine Invertebrata, the spiders being the only group whose proportions are at all fairly represented."

Small as the collection is, however, it is not by any means devoid of interest, for while there are individuals amongst it that are well known to Entomologists, there are also some that are new. Indeed, it would be strange if it were not so, when we consider the rich fields awaiting the labours of systematic workers among the islands of the Pacific, that are, as yet, comparatively untouched. And it must also be borne in mind, that the fauna of the islands comprising the various groups—of which the Ellice Group is one—is of a more or less derived nature—that is to say, the fauna of any one island or group can scarcely be considered as appertaining solely to it, but must be studied from a much broader standpoint, not only as regards the distribution of the genera, but also of the species. Thus, for instance, amongst the beetles, *Sphenophorus sulcipes*, Karsch, originally recorded from the Marshall Islands\* was obtained by Mr. Hedley at Funafuti; and amongst the butterflies *Junonia vellida*, Fabr., also obtained by Mr. Hedley, is not only common in the Ellice Group,† but also at the Gilbert Islands,‡ and coming nearer home—Australia. Then there are the mosquitoes—*Megarrhina inornata*, Walk., being found both in New Guinea and the Ellice Islands. Being possessed of this knowledge, therefore, it is only reasonable to

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\* Berlin. Ent. Zeit., xxv., 1880, p. 11, pl. i., fig. 16.

† Proc. Zool. Soc., 1878, p. 297; Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. (5), xv., p. 258.

‡ Geogr. Journ., vi., 4., 1895, p. 348.