

as occur at the highest limits of the forest being very like those of similar Andean localities, these mostly belonging to the genera *Euptychia*, *Archonias*, *Catasticta*, *Pereute*, *Enantia*, &c.; (4) that the fauna of the Atlantic slope to perhaps as far south as Costa Rica is incomparably richer than that of the Pacific, this being particularly noticeable in the Ithomiina, the Erycinidæ, the genera *Thecla* and *Papilio*, &c.; and (5) that some of the purely tropical genera do not reach north of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, or Panama, as *Eutresis*, *Scada*, *Cærois*, *Callitæra*, *Hetæra*, *Oressinoma*, *Narope*, *Panacea*, *Megistanis*, *Hypna*, *Zeonia*, *Ithomeis*, &c.

A comparison of our fauna with that of the West-Indian Islands (from which we exclude Trinidad and Tobago, as being Venezuelan) shows the extreme poverty of the latter, the Morphinæ being, so far as we know, wholly absent, and the Ithomiina, Heliconiina, Erycinidæ, and Brassolinæ having extremely few representatives*. We are unable to give any precise statistics as regards the total number of known South-American butterflies, there being no general work on the subject; but we may note that America north of Mexico has altogether (exclusive of *Ægiale*, which in this work is included amongst the moths in the family Castniidæ) 642 species (Skinner, 1898), as against 1805 in our region. For the whole of the Palæarctic region 716 species are now known (Staudinger and Rebel, 1901). Of the total number here enumerated from Central America, 360 are described as new.

The distribution of the Rhopalocera enumerated in this work will be better understood by a few remarks on the general features of the country, the elevation of the land, the geological formation, &c. The limits of our region are as follows:—the whole of Mexico from the valleys of the Rio Grande and the Rio Gila on the north (Lower California thus being excluded), the five Central-American Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, British Honduras, and the Colombian State of Panama as far as the Isthmus of Darien. In Mexico we have the central arid tablelands, of varying extent and elevation, running from our northern limits southward to Guatemala and beyond, but interrupted at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The highest mountains are at no very great distance from the Mexican capital; south of this they become lower, till we reach the mainland of South America, where peaks equalling those of Mexico and much higher are again found. The snow-line in Central America is about 15,000 feet. Along both the

* Lucas has recorded two species of Erycinidæ (*Syrmatia dorylas* and *Charis cæneus*) and one of Brassolinæ (*Opsiphanes cassia*) from Cuba; but these statements have not been confirmed, so far as we are aware.