

The caves, though of considerable size, were on the whole rather disappointing, and the only animals seen were innumerable bats, which tainted the whole atmosphere; as regards other living creatures, even after a diligent search, neither Mr. Flohr nor myself succeeded in discovering any traces of insects. A *Lepisma* and a beetle are, however, reported as having been found by other collectors.

Gadow's account of the Rio Balsas or Mescala basin informs us that it is bordered on the south side, parallel with the Pacific coast, by a long high range of mountains, attaining an altitude of 10,000 feet, densely wooded and intersected by deep gorges, while the river beds, which form the only available roads, occasionally widen into meadows.

At Chilpancingo there is a wind swept, shallow depression of cretaceous formation, surrounded by sparsely wooded hills with meadows on the top of the ridge. To the west the slopes of the Sierra Madre del Sur are covered with rich forest growth: oaks, dwarf palms, and pines abound, higher up oaks, pines, and arbutus, and, finally, pines alone, form dense high forests; while in the gorges, especially within the cloud-belt, most luxuriant undergrowth prevails. Omilteme (7100 feet) where many specimens were obtained, is situated in these mountains.

At Cumbre de Los Cajones, a pass of 3500 feet marks the beginning of volcanic formation. The typical 'tierra caliente,' with an essentially tropical flora and fauna, is found on the southern slope of the main ridge, coinciding with what is officially known as La Costa. The upper limit may be put at 1000 feet, but the country loses its tropical character on the ridges, which rise higher than 1500 feet.

From Coquillo to Chacalapan (700 feet) there is tropical life, and from thence to the coast across lower ridges, the subsoil consists of gneiss and granite in rapid decomposition, while wooded ground and open pastures are also found. The rivers during the winter season are frequently dry, but near the granite bound coast are lagoons mostly containing pure water; a broad belt of almost impenetrably high forest extends in places to the sea. Mangrove swamps are permanent features of the landscape, but in the rainy season many parts of the forests are inundated, and over nearly the whole of the coastal district a dense mass of tall herbs usurps the place of brushwood in the forest belts.

Throughout the State of Guerrero large collections, chiefly consisting of birds and insects, were made for us by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith, who spent a considerable time in the district, paying special attention to the fauna during the time I employed them in Mexico.

We have no detailed account of the States of Durango, Sinaloa, and Sonora, but the general aspect is barren and rocky, and although I sent one or two collectors to those districts, I gained no accurate information as to the physical features.