

numerous types of the southern North American Fauna are spread over Northern Mexico, extending along the Central American plateau to the extreme limits of our area, and even beyond. This southward extension of northern types is due partly to the identical physical conditions of the arid tableland of Sonora and Chihuahua, which is merely a continuation of that of Arizona and New Mexico, and partly to the great altitude and temperate climate of the Central American plateau. Thus, a boundary line between the North and South American regions cannot be drawn: Central America forms a transition-tract unlike any other part of the world, showing the most extraordinary diversity of climatic, physical, and meteoric conditions within comparatively small areas, favouring the evolution of a great variety of types of genera and species, and influencing the dispersal of immigrants from the North and South.

The range of the 695 species enumerated is shown in the Table appended to the Introduction (pp. x-xvii).

Since the conclusion of Dr. Günther's work, Dr. Hans Gadow has twice visited Mexico (1902 and 1904), mainly to study the distribution, &c., of the Amphibians and Reptiles. He collected specimens of 135 species. The following papers have been written by him :—

- (1) "Evolution of the Colour-pattern and Orthogenetic Variation in certain Mexican Species of Lizards, with Adaptation to their Surroundings" [Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. lxxii. pp. 109-125, pls. iii.-v. (1903)].
- (2) "The Mexican Axolotl" ['Nature,' lxvii. pp. 330-332 (1903)].
- (3) "The Distribution of the Mexican Amphibians and Reptiles" [P. Z. S. 1905, ii. pp. 191-245].
- (4) "A Contribution to the Study of Evolution based upon the Mexican Species of *Cnemidophorus*" (P. Z. S. 1906, i. pp. 277-375, pl. xx.).
- (5) 'Through Southern Mexico.' London, 1908.
- (6) "Geographical Distribution of Animals" ['Darwin and Modern Science,' pp. 319-336 (1909)].
- (7) "The Effect of Altitude upon the Distribution of Mexican Amphibians and Reptiles" [Jahrb. Jena Abt. f. Syst. xxix. 1910, pp. 689-714].

He also published an excellent account of the portions of Mexico visited during his travels, and we give elsewhere a copious extract from one of his papers.

During recent years attention has been called to various Reptilia, Batrachians, Arachnids, Coleoptera, &c., living in the Bromeliads on the branches of trees. Specimens of *Spelerpes variegatus* and *Hyla godmani* were obtained from these plants by one of our collectors, Mateo Trujillo, in Mexico, and other species have since been captured by Dr. Gadow.