

DISCUSSION

General Considerations

It will be seen from the following table (Table I) that while troglonexes or "casual visitors" form approximately half (51.2%) and troglophiles 43.2%, the troglobites or obligate cavernicoles represent only a small part (6.4%) of the total cave fauna of the Port Waikato-Piopio limestone area. If the Te Kuiti-Piopio area alone were considered, the proportion of troglobites would be somewhat higher, due to the presence of carabid beetles, which have not occurred north of the Waitomo district.

TABLE I.—Summary of Fauna from Limestone Caves in the Area Between Port Waikato and Piopio.

| | Trogloxenes (Intolerant) | Trogloxenes (Tolerant) | Troglophiles | Troglobites | No. of Species |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Onychophora | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Total Onychophora | | | | | 1 |
| Isopoda | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Amphipoda | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Decapoda | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total Crustacea | | | | | 4 |
| Chilopoda | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Diplopoda | 1 | | 5 | | 6 |
| Symphyla | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Total Myriapoda | | | | | 8 |
| Collembola | | | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Ephemeroptera | 6 | | | | 6 |
| Odonata | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Plecoptera | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Orthoptera | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Dictyoptera | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hemiptera | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Neuroptera | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Lepidoptera | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Trichoptera | 10 | | 1 | | 11 |
| Diptera | 2 | 13 | 9 | | 24 |
| Siphonaptera | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Coleoptera | 8 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 26 |
| Total Insecta | | | | | 89 |
| Araneida | | | 10 | | 10 |
| Acarina | | 4 | 3 | | 7 |
| Opiliones | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total Arachnida | | | | | 20 |
| Mollusca | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Total Mollusca | | | | | 3 |
| Total in each category | 35 | 28 | 54 | 8 | |
| Total number of species | | | | | 125 |
| Percentage in each category | 28.5% | 22.7% | 43.2% | 6.4% | |