

understood being represented by the corresponding small part of earth and the short period of time.

The aspects from the arctic regions are more impressive than the views from the summits of mountains, and the latter renew the remembrance of the former when both have been seen in succession. Visitors of mountain-tops may have observed, in a hot, still, misty day, multitudes of insects borne to the summit from the plains below, and filling the air, which at other times is free from them, and this is like to the sudden migration of species, from the south to the north, which occurs in Europe during some seasons.

In studying the fauna of a mountain, it is most suitable to begin with the top, and to trace it downward, where the agencies or forms of life become successively more numerous and complicated in their mutual adaptations and limitations, all being as wheels which serve to regulate the great living mechanism of which they are the parts. In like manner in noticing the faunas of the two primary mountains into which the earth is divisible, their summits being the poles, and the equator their common base, it is advisable to begin with the arctic species or with those which have ascended to the highest latitudes. The differences in soil, in vegetation, and in elevation, facilitate or hinder migration and settlement of insects, and help to effect the variety of distribution, which is one of the chief attractions in the aspects of Nature.

*Leucospis* is a genus of Chalcidæ, and has several peculiarities of structure. None of the species occur in abundance, and the very few whose economy has been observed are parasites of aculeate Hymenoptera. It is well known that the very general colour of the Chalcid tribe is metallic, most often coppery or golden green, but *Leucospis* seems to have almost grown out of this hue, though it retains sufficient to indicate the transition between it and most of the other Chalcid families. This lustre in *Leucospis* appears chiefly on the face, but in some species it is spread more or less over the body. In the single species (*L. affinis*) which inhabits Canada, and whose geographical range extends from thence to Texas, it is wholly absent, and there is no trace of it in the species inhabiting Arabia, North Africa, and Europe. A few species occur in the United States, and the genus is more numerous in Mexico, in the West Indies, and in the Amazon region. On the eastern slope, this genus inhabits Japan, China, Hindostan, Arabia, the Mediterranean region, and more rarely the interior of France, Switzerland, and Germany.