

(1) St. Peter's Bay, Carenage; under seaweed; stone and sand beach; coll. V. Quesnel, Aug. 4, 1957. — 12 males, 10 females (ovig.), 9 immatures. *Talorchestia sulensoni* Stebbing 1899.

(i) Mayaro; burrowing near HW in sandy beach; coll. V. Quesnel, June 23, 1957. — 5 males, 21 females (mostly ovig.), 5 immatures.

(ii) The Cocos, near Nairva Swamp; burrowing in sand near HW mark; coll. W. B. Scott, June 3, 1957. — 4 males, 3 females (ovig.)

E. L. BOUSFIELD

National Museum of Canada.

### Ovoviviparity in the Cockroach,

*Epilampra abdomen-nigrum* Degeer.

On 3rd December, 1954 I was collecting cockroaches of this species with which to feed a fledging nighthawk. As I caught them I crushed their heads and placed them in a jar. On going to feed the nighthawk I noticed that there were numbers of young cockroaches in the jar, and a minute or two later I saw a small piece of tissue being extruded from one of the cockroaches. It was obvious that this cockroach had just given birth to the young ones. There were about 44 of them. They were almost pure white at birth but became quite dark within twelve hours.

My inquiry at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) revealed that in cockroaches ovoviviparity and, indeed, viviparity are well known, for in some species the ootheca is membranous or incompletely formed and retained internally. Recently, I dissected three females and found each to be carrying a well-developed ootheca so this species must be regarded as ovoviviparous rather than viviparous. Ovoviviparity in this species has not been recorded previously.

As far as I know, *Epilampra* is not normally a household pest but occurs out-of-doors under stones, in rotting wood and other vegetable matter. It is about one inch long when full grown and apart from its rather dark abdomen is straw-coloured with small brown speckles on the elytra.

Note: The species was identified at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

V. C. QUESNEL.

## TRINIDAD FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

On 14th March, 1956, in the presence of members of the club and relatives of the persons commemorated, a memorial to six distinguished past members of the club was unveiled at the Royal Victoria Institute Museum. Later in the year, the typescript of the first number of a new series of the Journal of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club went to the press and only a slightly longer sojourn there than was anticipated prevented its publication in 1956. These two events, which bring to fruition the hopes and plans of

20 years, mark the year 1956 as one of the most important in the more recent history of the club, for they show that the club has regained the vigour which characterised its earliest period.

Eight regular meetings were held. These are listed with their main features :

- Thursday, 12th Jan. —Annual General Meeting.
- Thursday, 9th Feb. —“Some Trinidad Lizards” — a lecture by Dr. V. C. Quesnel.
- Thursday, 12th April —“Butterflies of Trinidad” — a lecture by Mr. F. Ambard.
- Friday, 11th May —Recordings with Commentaries:  
 (a) Sounds of a Tropical Rain Forest.  
 (b) Sounds of Zoo Animals.
- Friday, 14th June —“Notes on the Bird Colony of Soldado Rock” — a lecture by Mr. J. B. Saunders.
- Thursday, 13th Sept. —“Islands and Evolution” — a lecture by Mr. G. Underwood.
- Thursday, 11th Oct. —Panel Discussion — Territorial Behaviour in Animals.
- Friday, 16th Nov. —Films on Conservation: “Topsoil”, “Soil and Water Conservation”, “Dead Out”.

There was no meeting in March because of two other events, the unveiling of the memorial already mentioned and the third National Audubon Society Screen Tour which took place on 9th March. The film shown was “Between the Tides” by Mr. R. C. Hermes, an able speaker and photographer, who has endeared himself to us all. This film show, sponsored in collaboration with the Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago, was attended by about 100 persons, among whom were distinguished visitors from the Smithsonian Institution, and was enthusiastically received. The Committee of Management is still exploring means of bringing these screen tours to Trinidad on a regular basis. Two other film shows were sponsored by the club in collaboration with the Zoological Society: “Jungle Cavalcade” by Frank Buck, and “Bear Country” and “Nature’s Half Acre”, two in the series of Disney’s “True Life Adventures”.

There were seven meetings of the Committee of Management.

Nine excursions were held; the places visited were: Valencia, Fishing Pond, Chacachacare, Brigand Hill, Blanchisseuse Road, Caroni Swamp, El Cedro Estate, Mount Harris, and Devil’s Woodyard. The first two or three of these were relatively successful, but the others were not very fruitful. Attendances declined during the year and the excursions still suffer from a lack of purpose. For this reason the Committee of Management has decided on a new type of excursion in 1957 which, it is hoped, will prove to be better in every way.

Attendances at the regular monthly meetings have been good, more than thirty persons being present at every meeting.

Twenty one persons were admitted to the club during the year. Several persons defaulted from the club owing to their failure to pay subscriptions and others have left the colony. At the year's end there were 149 members divided as follows: 135 Resident Members, 6 Honorary Members, 6 Corresponding Members and 2 Associate Members.

Two prominent members suffered serious accidents in December. Mr. Greenhall was bitten by a rabid bat and had to go to New York for medical treatment. Happily, he is back with us. Mr. Urban Cross, a former Hon. Secretary, was the victim of a shooting accident. He is reported to be recovering satisfactorily, but it will be some time before he can once more participate in our activities. The death of Mr. Paul Anduze, a past member, is regretfully recorded.

We have been fortunate in having the use of the Library Room of St. Mary's College as a meeting place for yet another year. On behalf of the club, I wish to thank the college authorities and Fr. Graf in particular for their hospitality.

In conclusion, I would record my thanks to Miss P. Heath and Miss M. Wood for their help with the considerable amount of typing which is inseparable from the post of secretary.

VICTOR C. QUESNEL,

*Hon. Secretary,*

16th Jan., 1957.