

Editorial

The 2012 issue of Living World is dedicated to Dr. Julian S. Kenny, former Professor of Zoology, University of the West Indies and a long-standing and influential supporter of the Journal. We are pleased to include a tribute from Emeritus Professor Julian Duncan. Roger Downie provides a sample of Dr. Kenny's influence and encouragement in an account of the 'Biodiversity Connection' between Glasgow University and Trinidad and Tobago. And finally, we have a reflection by John Murphy and Roger Downie that despite the work done by Kenny and his predecessors, there is some work on amphibians and reptiles left to do.

In this issue, we publish five Research Papers and a record thirteen Nature Notes spanning a wide range of taxa and life habits. However, in this issue we have no paper on plants; but fortunately our Guest Editorial this year on the Darwin Initiative comes from Yasmin Comeau, Curator of the National Herbarium and our flora is given recognition.

Victor Quesnel and David Stradling provide "Evidence for the Function of the Eye-spots in the Butterfly genera *Caligo* and *Eryphanis*." and thus conclude a life-long consideration on the subject initiated by an off the cuff comment and publication in 1976.

Matthew Cock has provided us with the 19th part of his account of the Skipper Butterflies of Trinidad, an account which has benefited from our improved printing quality and colour. Matthew Cock has also collaborated on two Nature Notes, one with J.M. González describes the moth *Corybantes mathani* (Castniidae) a new record for Trinidad and one with Charles De Gannes on the biology of the Nymphalid *Memphis pithyusa morena*.

The Arachnida are well represented in this issue of Living World in an account of the Harvestmen of Tobago by Victor Townsend and others. Jo-Anne Sewlal notes two spider specimens listed from Trinidad in the database of Field Museum, Chicago, USA, of families not previously collected in Trinidad. She also observes a case of apparent "parental care" of eggs by the spider *Azilia vachoni*. Still with arachnids but of the parasitic kind, we have a paper on the tick infestations of *Rhinella marina* by J.D. Burgon *et al.*, and Elisha Tikasingh writes about Laelapid mites from small mammals in Trinidad.

The remaining contributions are a very mixed bag. We have an account of free-living nematodes from a natural oil seep at La Brea, Trinidad by J.F. Gobin *et al.*; a new wasp for Trinidad by Allan Hook and the Status of Four Aquatic Crustaceans from Grand Cayman, West Indies by David Bass. Ryan Mohammed and Mike Rutherford record two new gastropods from Trinidad.

A few contributions relate to the islands and the sea surrounding Trinidad's north-west peninsula. Mike Rutherford and M. Charran note the occurrence of two species of sea cucumbers; from Williams Bay *Holothuria cubana* and the sea off Cocorite *Parathyone suspecta*. Mike Rutherford describes the feeding behaviour of a giant centipede *Scolopendra gigantea* captured on Chacachacare Island, and Stevland Charles *et al.* provide the first record of an Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis* from Gaspar Grande (Gasparee) and four reptiles from Gasparillo Island also known as Centipede Island.

The issue includes the ninth report of the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Birds Committee in which 54 records of rare birds were considered. Male hummingbirds generally take no part in nest-building or parental care. We have one note by Michelle Rochford of a hummingbird in male plumage sitting on a nest.

In 2004 the proceedings of a conference on Caribbean Island Natural History titled *The Nature of the Islands* were published as a supplement to the Living World. In 2011 this practice continued with two supplements published. The Proceedings of the 1st Research Symposium of the Department of Life Sciences of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, 7-8 April, 2011 were published as Supplement 1 to the Living World 2011. In August, 2011 the Bolivarian Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects held their 8th Biennial General Meeting at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. These proceedings were published as Supplement 2 to the Living World 2011. The Editor looks forward to additional supplements of this nature.

The Journal continues to receive good support from professional researchers and knowledgeable naturalists and the Editor thanks all contributors, reviewers, and sponsors for their contributions.

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Cover Photograph

The success of the Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* in Trinidad is well documented. It was first recorded in Trinidad in 1951 and reached Tobago in the early 1960s. It soon became the most abundant heron in Trinidad. Their success was in part due to their association with grazing animals. They walk alongside a cow or buffalo, and feed on insects disturbed by the movement. When Cattle Egrets first arrived in Trinidad this was a vacant feeding niche. They soon adapted to feeding along tractors and other machinery. Some individuals have learnt that fire also triggers grasshoppers into rash flights making them easy prey. This one was photographed by G. White at Nariva Swamp as it made use of a fire set by a farmer to clear the land.