

Editorial

As we were preparing the 2007 issue of Living World for publication, we learnt of the death of Dr. Thomas H. G. Aitken at 94 years. Tommy, as he was known to us, lived in Trinidad from 1954 to 1966 during which time he made significant contributions to our scientific culture. He was a member of our Club shortly after it was revived in the 1950's and was a member of the Editorial Committee of the Club's journal. We respectfully dedicate this issue of Living World to his memory.

The Guest Editorial comes from the President of our Club. He has chosen to write about the growth of human populations and its effects on society and development.

There are two review articles in this issue. Prof. Julian Duncan reviews the reproductive biology, development and propagation of the 'David Auyong' cultivar of the *Conocarpus* plant, while E. Devenish and C. Sayer review the literature and recent research in Trinidad on the Neotropical river otter *Lontra longicaudis*.

Louis Garraway and Rean Maharaj conducted research on some mushrooms in Trinidad and found the psychoactive substances, psilocin and psilocybin, in one species of mushroom, *Psilocybe caerulescens*, from Santa Flora in south Trinidad. This is a first study of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago.

The crustacean *Metamysidopsis insularis* is used in toxicological testing in Trinidad, but not much is known about its life cycle. Najila Elias-Samlalsingh *et al.* describe the development stages of the species.

In his continuing series on freshwater macroinvertebrates in the various West Indian islands, David Bass writes this time on the results obtained in Dominica. He reported an additional 29 taxa for the island bringing the total to 116. Locally, W. G. Rostant *et al.* report on their research on

the fish fauna of five rivers in southeast Trinidad. They noted that *Mugil curema* was the most abundant species and accounted for 56% of the total catch.

There are two articles by Matthew Cock: one on Skipper Butterflies, the 15th of his series; and the other, a research note on the sphingid moth *Xylophanes titana*.

Graham White revised the list of birds recorded from Trinidad and Tobago and provides an assessment of abundance, while M. Kenefick writes on the rare birds of Trinidad and Tobago in 2004 and 2005, the Fourth Report of the Rare Bird Committee.

The Madamas Watershed in the Northern Range, has been proposed as a National Park, but there is little information on the natural history of the area. E. Devenish *et al.* give a preliminary assessment of the species richness of the area.

There are five Nature Notes in this issue in addition to sphingid moth by Cock: one on the girth of the Sandbox tree; one on the Tobago caiman and one on a new locality record for the lizard *Gonatodes ceciliae*. There are two papers on spiders: Jo-Anne Sewlal is the senior author in both, one gives a preliminary survey of spiders found on Nevis and the other updates the list of family spiders for Trinidad and Tobago.

There are two book reviews: one on the second edition of 'The Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club Trail Guide' and the other on the latest of Professor Kenny's books, the 'Flowers of Trinidad and Tobago'.

We have a small change to the way we cite references. Starting with the present issue, authors must now give the full title of each Journal.

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