

ENVIRONMENT



LIMESTONE was once actively extracted at the Marac quarry.



THE Marac mud volcanoes exude both oil and mud.



A BEAUTIFUL fungus along the trail to the volcano. PHOTOS BY KAMAL MAHABIR

A view of Marac

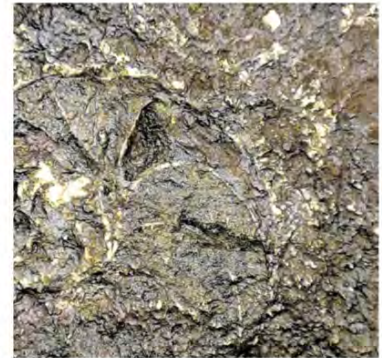
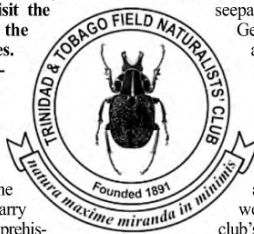
IN NOVEMBER 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club journeyed to Moruga to visit the Marac quarry and the Marac mud volcanoes. Despite the rain, members had an excellent time exploring this fascinating area which was once actively quarried for its limestone.

Some of the limestone rocks at the Marac quarry contain evidence of small prehistoric animals, including nautiloids, which once roamed the seas. A few members of this ancient species are alive today in other parts of the world but many more are known to have existed based on the fossil record.

The nearby Marac mud volcanoes exude

oil and mud, producing a unique landscape reminiscent of the pitch lake. These seepages, according to the Geological Society of Trinidad and Tobago cover an area of 25 hectares.

For more information on our natural environment, you can contact the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club at admin@ttfnc.org or visit our website at www.ttfnc.org. The club's next monthly meeting will be held on February 12, 2015 at St Mary's College, Port-of-Spain. This month's lecture: "The Sargassum event and the RGB algae of Trinidad and Tobago" by Lori Lee Lum of the Institute of Marine Affairs.



FOSSIL remains of ancient nautiloids can still be found here.

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