

# ENVIRONMENT

A VIEW from Mount Tamana.



## View from Mount Tamana

THE TT Field Naturalists' Club journeyed to Mount Tamana, located in the central range, in February. Mount Tamana is a favourite among naturalists and nature lovers on account of the famous Tamana bat caves and for the lovely view from the summit.

The path to the summit is fringed by extensive growths of blackstick (*Pachystachys coccinea*). This shade loving species can be found in many forested areas of the country, almost always limited to the undergrowth. The bright red, tubular flowers are well suited to attract hummingbirds and the location of these plants in the undergrowth suggests that hermit hummingbirds are the main pollinators. (TT is home to three species of hermit hummingbird, all of which prefer the gloom of the forest undergrowth).

Along the northern section of Mount Tamana is the Tamana cave system. The cave is actually comprised of two cave systems – the Tamana Dry and Tamana Main Caves. Large numbers of bats are known to inhabit these caves. Amazingly, it has been estimated that up to 1.5 million bats can inhabit the cave but numbers vary throughout the year. At least 11 species of bats have been recorded here.

The spectacle of bats leaving the caves at dusk sometimes attracts a small number of human visitors as well. While the cave has been extensively studied, extreme caution should be exercised in this and other cave environments. Histoplasmosis, a potentially deadly fungus, is often found in caves and other areas where bat droppings accumulate. The fungus affects the lungs and severe cases can result in death if left untreated.

For more information on our natural environment, contact the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club at [admin@ttfnc.org](mailto:admin@ttfnc.org) or visit the website at [www.ttfnc.org](http://www.ttfnc.org). The club's next monthly meeting is on May 14 at St Mary's College, Port-of-Spain. The scheduled lecture is "Guppy mate-choice behaviour" by Heather Auld, Carleton University, Canada.



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The Institute of Internal Auditors,  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO Chapter  
Professional Centre, #11-13 Fitz Blackman Drive  
Wrightson Road, Port of Spain

For further details and registration form, please Contact:

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#### VENUE

Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business  
Max Richards Drive, Uriah Butler Highway, Mount Hope

TIME: 8.30 AM—4.00 PM DAILY



CAVE SHAFT



BLACKSTICK-LINED FOREST