

FEATURES



A RIVER GOBY (*Sicydium* sp)

A Naturalist's View of Rincon

In July, the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club undertook a short trip to a pool located near to the Rincon Waterfall. A short trip, however, does not mean that it is not a good opportunity to observe the splendor of nature!

Overshadowed by the cloudy peak of El Tucuche, the well-worn trail took members through shady forest undergrowth where several interesting plants could be found.

The *z'oi millat* (*Phytolacca rivinoides*) is a beautiful and unusual flowering herb with a bright pink inflorescence. Unopened flowers are green and globular before opening. The leaves of the plant can actually be eaten when cooked.

Along the way we were also treated to the brilliant blooms of our national flower — the chaconier

(*Warszewiczia coccinea*). As discussed in our previous feature, the chaconier derives its name from the chaconne, which is a form of 17th Century dance from Europe in which the dancers were adorned with small streamers, and was not in tribute to Governor Don Jose Maria Chacon. The original name is actually chaconier but was misspelt by the authorities as "chaconia".

At the pool, a few small mountain mullet (*Agonostomus monticola*) were seen. Another type of fish seen at the pool was the small river goby (*Sicydium* sp).

These unusual fish have developed a sucker on their undersides which allow them to cling to slippery rocks in the streams and pools they inhabit.

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THE Z'OI MILLAT (*Phytolacca rivinoides*)

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FEATURES



A FOREST pool at Rincon.

Butterflies in abundance

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Even more interesting is their life history. The gobies will lay their eggs in the gravel of these streams and, when they hatch, the young larval fish will make their way to the sea where they spend some time growing before making their way back inland. Quite a journey for such a small fish!

Also in the pool was at least one type of prawn (*Macrobrachium crenulatum*).

At this time of year, many plants are in bloom and several butterflies could be found at roadside clumps of the railway daisy (*Bidens pilosa*) as we made our way back out the trail. One of these was the meton hairstreak (*Rekoa meton*). Hairstreaks are an interesting family of

METON HAIRSTREAK (*Rekoa meton*)

butterflies. They possess tail-like growths on their lower wings which move freely in the breeze or when the butterfly itself moves.

These growths look similar to antenna and may serve to protect the butterfly from being eaten by predators, like birds or lizards, which might attack

this false head and so give the butterfly a chance to escape.

For more information on our natural environment, you can contact the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club at admin@tfn.org, visit our website at www.tfn.org or check us out on Facebook and YouTube.

In Memory Of



Clarence William Smythe Jr.

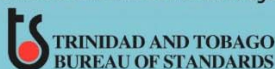
(June 16th 1983- August 2nd 2015)

who departed this life on Sunday 2nd August, 2015

We have lost a valued colleague and dear friend.
Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of
Mr. Smythe.

Although it is difficult to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back at his life help to comfort us tomorrow.
May you rest in eternal peace.

Remembered by
the Management and staff of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards



SALE BY MORTGAGEE

Sale 24/2015

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