

# *Euneca celma* - a new butterfly for Trinidad

By Jonathan French

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WHILE collecting on Aripo Savannah at 11.30 on 30th December 1974 I came across a Nymphalid butterfly that was not described in Malcolm Barcant's book, "Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago", Collins, London 1970."

The specimen, which was in poor condition, was subsequently examined by T.G. Howarth of the British Museum of Natural History in London. It proved to be a female of *Euneca celma* (Hew.) and previously unrecorded in Trinidad. The museum possesses specimens of this species from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, but significantly not from Venezuela nor the Guianas; this indicates that my specimen was a vagrant to Trinidad.

The underside shows a close resemblance to the Rare Purple *Eunica excelsa*, which is illustrated in Barcant's book on Plate 20; it differs in that there is a wide white median band across the forewing. The upperside differs from that of other *Eunica* species by the white band and brown apical areas; the rest of the forewing and the hind wing are blue, rather than purple or brown as in other *Eunica* species found in Trinidad.