Butterflies from Chacachacare Island including three species new to Trinidad

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ON THE 15th January 1980, Julius Boos took Ken Preston-Mafham, a visiting nature photographer, and myself to Chacachacare Island. Although Julius Boos is well known as a butterfly enthusiast, on this occasion he managed to forget his butterfly net! However, sharing the one net we managed to make some interesting captures. These included three species of butterfly not previously recorded from Trinidad and Tobago. These were the Riodinid *Anteros carausius* Westwood and two Hesperids *Heliopetes domicella* Erichson and *Staphylus azteca* Scudder ssp. *tyro* Mabille.

I caught two males of *A. carausius*, feeding on flowers of *Chromolaena (= Eupatorium) odorata* L., about a third of the way up the track to the lighthouse. A week later Scott Alston-Smith also visited Chacachacare and managed to catch seven specimens all on one bush of *C. odorata.* This, however, does not end the records from Trinidad, for I have since found another specimen in Sir Norman Lamont's collection at UWI, labelled as *A. renaldus* Stoll (the Blue Brushfoot). This specimen was caught on Gaspar Grande in March 1928, presumably by Lamont himself.

Two other species of the genus *Anteros* are found in Trinidad and are illustrated in Malcolm Barcant's *Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago* (Collins 1970). These are *A. formosanus* Cramer (the Gold Drop) which is obviously different, and *A. renaldus* which is superficially similar to *A. carausius. A. renaldus* is, however, larger (male forewing *A. renaldus* 15mm; *A. carausius* 12 mm) and the two undersides have distinct colour patterns. This species is illustrated together with other new or rare butterflies elsewhere in this issue.

Judging from the collection of the British Museum, *A. carausius* is widespread in the American tropics and varies considerably from locality to locality. The Chacachacare specimens are a good match with material from Venezuela. Since Malcolm Barcant has proposed common names for most of the Trinidad Riodinids, I would suggest the name "Bocas Brushfoot" for this species.

As the Hesperiidae are unfamiliar to naturalists in Trinidad and not covered by Malcolm Barcant's book, I merely record the capture (by Julius Boos and myself) of a pair of each of *H. domicella* and *S. azteca.* One specimen of each pair was taken at the bottom of the track to the lighthouse while the other was taken at Rust's Bay.

The commonest species of butterfly we saw on that day was *Ascia menciae janeta* Dixey (Pieridae). This is the species recorded by Barcant as *Pieris sevanta janeta*, a doubtful Trinidad species based on one record from Teteron Bay in 1904 and recently rediscovered by Clive Urich on Gaspar Grande *(Living World, 1977 — 8,* p. 15). The subspecies *menciae* Ramsden is known from Cuba and Saint Lucia, while the mainland subspecies *janeta*, was previously only known from Venezuela (Riley, N.D. (1975) *A field guide to the butterflies of the West Indies*, Collins, London). Apart from this species, the most interesting captures were *"Thecla"* (= Calliscista) faunalia* Hewitson and a specimen of *"T." (= Strymon) bazochii* Godart with white apical markings on the forewing which Scott Alston-Smith caught. This specimen matches that illustrated by Lewis (Lewis, H.L. (1973), *Butterflies of the World*, Harrap, plate 67, fig. 28). The normal form in Trinidad that was mis-named as *T. thius* by Kaye and Barcant (and illustrated by the latter) was also present.

The Bocas islands of Trinidad and Tobago provide an interesting opportunity to study the zoogeography of animals and to this end a complete list of butterflies caught and seen follows. Although a comparatively short list, perhaps the Field Naturalists' trip in August will extend this and trips to the other Bocas islands (and ideally Patos Island and the Venezuelan coast) will provide lists for interesting comparisons.

A. carausius, T. faunalia and *T. bazochii* were determined by Dr. Jeremy Holloway of the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology and I would like to thank him for this assistance. My thanks also go to Scott Alston-Smith for letting me include his records.

Checklist of the butterflies of Chacachacare Island

Hesperiidae	*Urbanus dorantes dorantes* Stoll, *U. viterboana alva* Evans, *Staphylus azteca tyro* Mabille, *Callimormus saturnus* *Callimormus saturnus* Herrich-Shaeffer, *Pyrgus oileus orcus* Stoll, *Heliopetes domicella* Erichson, *Mellana eulogius* Plotz
Riodinidae	*Anteros carausius* Westwood, *Emesis lucinda parvissima* Kaye, *Calepheles laverna* G. & S., *Nymula calyce* Felder
Lycaenidae	*"Thecla" (Callicista) albata faunalia "T." (C.) faunali* Hewitson, *"T." (C.) bazochii* Godart, *"T." (C.) bubastus* Cramer, *"T." myrtillus* Cramer *(= Rekoa palegon* Carmer auct. Barcant)
Pieridae	*Phoebis sennae* L. *Ascia monuste L. A. menciae janeta* Dixey, *Eurema albula* Cramer
Nymphalidae	*Mestra hypermestra cana* Erichson, *Anartia amathea* L.
Heliconiidae	*Colaenis iulia* Fab. *Heliconius melpomene* L.

**I put Thecla in inverted commas since the Neotropical Lycaenidae, although almost entirely put in the genus Thecla, badly need revision and none really belongs to this genus since it is restricted to the Old World.*