

Margaret E. Fountaine, an Early 20th-Century Butterfly Collector in Trinidad

Matthew J. W. Cock

CABI Bioscience Switzerland Centre, 1 Rue des Grillons, CH-2800 Delémont, Switzerland.

E-mail: m.cock@cabi.org

ABSTRACT

Margaret E. Fountaine (1863-1940) collected and reared butterflies all over the World. She visited the Caribbean island of Trinidad in November 1911 ñ February 1912, February ñ June 1931, and December 1936 ñ June 1937. She died in Trinidad on a fourth visit in 1940 at the age of 78. Her collection from all over the world is preserved as the Fountaine-Neimy Collection in the Norwich Castle Museum, UK. Using extracts from her journal, information is given on her collecting methods and experiences at the Trinidad localities: Fonds Amandes, Hololo Mountain Road and Mt. St. Benedicts. *Sostrata festiva* Erichson, *Pythonides limnaea* Hewitson (Hesperiidae) and *Fountainea ryphaea ryphaea* Cramer (Nymphalidae) are illustrated from the Fountaine-Neimy collection. A table is provided of the 39 species which she reared in Trinidad.

BACKGROUND

In 1940, an elderly Englishwoman, Margaret E. Fountaine was collecting and rearing butterflies while staying at the Pax Guest House, part of the Mt. St. Benedict's monastery complex on the south-facing slopes of Trinidad's Northern Range. For many years she had travelled the world collecting butterflies and this was her fourth visit to Trinidad, one of her favourite places. She suffered a heart attack while collecting beside the Mt. St. Benedict Road. Here, Father Bruno from the monastery found her. He carried her back to the Pax Guest House, where she died soon afterwards. She was 78 years old.

In her will she left her collection of 22,000 butterflies in ten mahogany cabinets to the Norwich Castle Museum, Norfolk, UK, to be kept in perpetuity as the Fountaine-Neimy Collection (FNC), together with a sealed box of "manuscripts" not to be opened until 1978. When the box was opened, it was found to contain her journals, kept from the age of 15 in 1878. The journals began as a record of one day each year – Miss Fountaine's special day, 15 April. In her family, each daughter had a special day – not her birthday - when the family tried to accommodate her wishes. After the first few years, the journal became a summary of the year, leading into a full account of the special day.

The opening of the box in April 1978 created some interest, and the *Sunday Times* (UK) bid for and secured the rights to publish the diaries. Subsequently, W.F. Cater edited two books of extracts from the diaries covering 1878-1913 (Fountaine 1980) and 1914-1939 (Fountaine 1986). Most of the background material presented here is extracted from these volumes. Much of the interest in the diaries centred on Miss Fountaine's love life. Although the journals are discreet, the impression is given of a series of relationships, of which one dominated: that with Khalil Neimy (also referred to as Charles), a Syrian dragoman (an interpreter or guide in countries where Arabic, Turkish, or Persian is spoken) who travelled and collected butterflies with Miss Fountaine until his death in 1929. They never married, as he already had a family in Syria. While by today's standards, this may not seem exceptional, at the time it was considered outrageous, and so Miss Fountaine has found a place in feminist literature.

Miss Fountaine published very few of her observations in scientific journals, although we know that she reared and recorded the life history of many species, and made water colour paintings of larvae and pupae. Her sketchbooks are held in the Entomology Library of the Natural History Museum, London, and I hope to review the Trinidad observations in these at a later date.

The published volumes (Fountaine 1980, 1986) contain relatively little regarding collecting butterflies and almost nothing

about Miss Fountaine's time in Trinidad. Apart from the special day each year, the journals are often vague regarding dates. However, the specimens in the FNC are labelled with their month of capture (or months of rearing), and so we can tell that Miss Fountaine was in Trinidad November 1911 – February 1912, February – June 1931, and December 1936 – June 1937. Thus in 1931 and again in 1937 Miss Fountaine spent her special day in Trinidad and these are described in some detail, both involving butterfly collecting excursions.

Miss Fountaine was buried in an unmarked grave in Woodbrook Cemetery, Port of Spain, at the expense of the city. The grave is still unmarked; it has not been maintained and is now overgrown (Fountaine 1986, C.K. Starr pers. comm. 2004). In the 1980s, following the publication of "Love among the butterflies" (Fountaine 1980), a memorial plaque prepared by local sculptor Ken Morris was mounted at the Pax Guest House overlooking the Caroni Plain (Fountaine 1986). When I enquired in 2003, the plaque had been removed and was in the care of Gerard Ramsarak, the proprietor of the Pax Guest House, following an act of vandalism.

The aim of this contribution is to document Miss Fountaine's experiences in Trinidad from her journals. Although this is of historical interest, the main interest lies in the light it throws on the methods used by butterfly collectors at this time, the areas where she and others collected in Trinidad, and passing comments on other naturalists she met here.

Thus, in editing these passages from Miss Fountaine's journals, I have tried to limit the excerpts to those passages which address the natural history of Trinidad, particularly butterfly collecting, including references to other naturalists. It is clear from reading the Trinidad sections of the journals, that Miss Fountaine had quite strong racist views, which although perhaps acceptable in much of white colonial society at the time, and interesting social history, are not acceptable today. Accordingly, I have edited out phrases and passages which today would give offence, and occasionally added words or phrases in square brackets to improve clarity or flow. Miss Fountaine's original footnotes are included. Explanatory notes are appended, indicated in the text by a roman number in brackets, thus (1), (2), etc.

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL

1911-1912, pp 2240-2250

"... it did not take ... [Khalil and me] long to discover that we were both delighted with Trinidad, the butterflies were a dream, more especially in contrast with the wretched collecting in Jamaica, in fact we soon realised that on this place we had found all we had, at least as far as this trip was concerned, hitherto searched for in

vain, and here our time was more or less to be restricted! A month at the most ... After this for some little time, we discovered that the St. Clair direction (1) had more "doing" with the butterflies than any other, and indeed we were getting together a splendid lot of specimens here round Port of Spain including many different species. ... Khalil and I very happy and very contented, leading our quiet uneventful life as one day found us wandering over the hill slopes above Belmont (2) another under the shade of the cacao plantations beyond St. Clair (1) where butterflies of the Ithomiidae genus were in abundance notwithstanding that it was so dark beneath the thick foliage of the cacao, that the bats flew at mid-day – huge weird-looking creatures, that some women would have been terrified of, but not I. However we soon discovered that the most beautiful spot of all was the Fonds Amandes Valley (3), also reached from the direction of St. Ann's (4), and here too the rarest species were to be found. I don't think I have ever seen any place quite so lovely before, - ultra tropical and therefore to me intoxicating to a degree in its luscious loveliness, where *Morphos* flew down in the dark shades in the depths of the forest floating and soaring along the devious course of the stream like blue spirits of light from the blue skies outside, of other worlds more lovely even than this earth of ours. But heavy showers of rain generally came on, especially in this valley, about mid-day, which of course, did not tend to increase our comfort, or success. - ...

"... We went to the Agricultural Gardens one day and made acquaintance with Mr. Evans (the Government Botanist) and Mr. Guppy (one of the Government Entomologists) (5). The latter was very pleasant and agreeable, but Mr. Evans, either would not, or could not, give us any help in naming our food-plants, and was most unnecessarily grand and disagreeable, - though this may have been because they were all up to their eye-lids in work, preparing an Agricultural Show that was shortly to take place here in Port of Spain, ...

1931, pp. 2951-2960

"I had asked Mons. René to be here [Hotel de Paris] at 9 o'clock, and sure enough he arrived to the minute, almost before I had quite got together the nets and other paraphernalia, such as glass-bottomed pill-boxes for ova and small larvae, and the zinc boxes for larger ones. I asked if Fernando was coming, as that would mean also his little white net, and René said the boy would join us downstairs; so we all started off together to catch the next street-car out to St. Ann's. ... The Fonds Amandes Valley looked more beautiful than ever, for though, I believe, there has been a spell of dry weather here too, it has rained splendidly the last day or two, and the sky looks as if still more were to come, although I could not help hoping that today it might wait 'til the afternoon, before coming down very heavily. But this was a real tropical valley, hot and steamy and the soft, delicious air was life to me after the dry aridity of Venezuela. There were quite a few butterflies about, and Monsieur René and Fernando, were very keen and busy collecting the *Mechanitis* etc., so largely represented on this island, which however I really did not require, having long series of all of them from here years ago with dear Charles. So they all went into René's box from whence, I believe they will eventually be sent to Dr. Pollard in the States. The only thing which interested me was a rather small *Caligo*, quite distinct from *eurilochus* (6). I caught one (a female) but she was in such wretched condition, that she was only kept in my box because she was too big to get into theirs; I saw another but failed to catch it. We just wandered on and on ... At one time we would be crossing the stream, which was still flowing freely here and the next minute

we would again be mounting up amongst the cocoa trees; still far up the valley there was the same solitary dwelling house with the same small piece of cultivated land just in its immediate vicinity; and when the path led once more down to the stream, on the other side of this humble habitation, it stopped abruptly. So we went no further; I having come here specially hoping to get a very beautiful, semi-transparent ¹erycinid I remember we used to catch here 19 years ago. But I saw none of it, and I was beginning to think that it had long since been exterminated by local collectors, so I was all the more pleased when Monsieur René brought me a specimen of this very butterfly, which he said had just been caught by Fernando, and the boy seemed delighted to have got something at last that I really wanted. ... We had submitted every banana leaf to a careful search for larvae, especially since I caught that *Caligo*, though as a matter of fact, I fancy that it is a species that would give the preference to bamboo, or sugar-cane, as its food plant (6); but our efforts so far had proved in vain, till at last I did find one rather small larva but this being an *Opsiphanes*, not a *Caligo*, I left it undisturbed. We were beginning to retrace our steps now, but the weather which had hitherto on the whole been bright and sunny was now clouding over. A huge land crab which Fernando said was very good to eat, must have heard the remark, and found it little to her liking for she hurried softly across the path in front of us, and the next thing we knew, she was tucking herself most cleverly and expeditiously into her hole, under a good sized rock. We afterwards saw a smaller one which I thought might be the male of the species but René said it was a young one not yet fully grown. Nothing of significance happened on the way back. ... The tram was standing waiting, so we hurried to catch it. Monsieur René and Fernando came back with me to the Hotel de Paris, for one thing to carry the paraphernalia, and also that I should give the former the folded papers, I happened to have ready, so that he should fix up a cocoa tin (à la Newcombe (8)) for his own collecting, as I am sure now that his specimens are by no means improved, by their mode of transport from forest to dwelling house. It was nearly 2 p.m. ... Once more upstairs I looked through my captures which were nothing remarkable. However, I set 3 specimens but alas! Fernando's erycinid on closer inspection was damaged near the anal angle of the near hindwing, so I had to paper it for Mme. Fournier. ...

"Up on the slopes of one of Trinidad's beautiful mountains is a monastery called St. Benedicts, the order is a strict one, no female is allowed to enter within its sacred precincts ... Anyhow Father Maurus one of the priests in this monastery being an entomologist was one of the most pure simple minded men I have ever met, a genuine lover of nature, a true scientist, with the simplicity of a child went far to make him a most congenial companion, and he was allowed to go out with me pretty frequently, perhaps because I was a somewhat antiquated specimen of my sex; but on no account whatever must I set foot in the monastery grounds, much to the regret of Father Maurus as it would have been a real pleasure to him to have shown me all the treasures in his laboratory. But while I enjoyed those rambles over those forest clad mountains immensely, I did not get much of interest, owing to the intense dryness of the season, but we did find a few larvae mostly of *Heliconius* which Father Maurus would look at with beaming eyes, while he remarked with genuine enthusiasm: "Isn't it just the sweetest thing?" He was still young – this man with the mind of a child, not much over 30 years of age and painfully thin, with that hungry eager look on his eyes, so often to be seen in the true religious enthusiast, but his activity on the hillsides and in the ravines must have been somewhat hindered by a long light coloured garment resembling a cassock

that he always wore; but I suppose he was accustomed to it. And we certainly went into some wild places, when maybe I would wade up to my knees in a mountain stream threading my way between the huge rocks and boulders, ... while the lean, spare figure in the light coloured cassock would be climbing over the rocks above. There was peace up here in the simple, unpretentious guest house just outside the monastery grounds. ... The drought in Trinidad this year was quite exceptional. Forest fires ... raged all over those lovely hills, even the Fonds Amandes Valley was burnt black right down into the gorge. But I had made several very nice acquaintances, besides Dr. and Mrs. Myers (9), who had returned from their trip in Venezuela, ... Then there was Dr Ulrich (10), who had taken me up to St. Benedict's, also Mr. and Mrs. Wortley, ... It was good to go with Dr. Ulrich to see a private collection in the town, and he also took me out to the Agricultural College; it was good to sit in the slumberous heat of those tropical nights on the verandah of the Wortley's house, in the Botanical Gardens, of which he was the chief director and then be driven back to the Hotel de Paris in their car. ...

1936-37 pages 3133-3143

"But there is none of these [Caribbean] islands quite equal to Trinidad, possibly I am biased in its favour, because of its really wonderful fauna, there being nearly twice as many species of butterflies on this little island, as in the whole of Europe. I put up at a new hotel kept by a Frenchman some little way up the St. Ann's Valley, where I had a large room, and what was still more important, a very large table, and I was soon busy collecting caterpillars, with the able assistance of a young Indian who was one of Monsieur Sands' gardeners, but who was nevertheless usually available. ... I was getting one way or another some pretty good things. ... I had not been in Trinidad very long when I discovered to my intense satisfaction that Mr. Sheldon (11) was in Tobago, so I wrote to him at once, receiving an answer to say that he was shortly returning to Trinidad. It is more than 30 years since I first met Mr. Sheldon, when we were both in the prime of life. But were we now any less keen than then? Not a bit, and we climbed the Hololo Mountain (12) together. Though he being several years older even than I am, was not able to go up so rapidly, though he always beat me coming down, but that was because the very first day I went out here in Trinidad, I hurt my left knee, and the steep descent was always rather painful in consequence. Mr. Sheldon seemed to be specialising on *Preponas* (13), and having already discovered a good locality for these rapid flying forest butterflies, he would paint the trees in that vicinity with a mixture of golden syrup and rum, and by this means succeeded in making several very good captures. I think he was rather vexed at the way I devoted my time and attention almost exclusively to the search for caterpillars. The weather was perfect for our work, quite an unusual amount of rain for the time of year, and rarely enough to cause inconvenience. I missed Mr. Sheldon quite a lot when he left for home on February 1st; and about a fortnight afterwards I left Sands Hotel in spite of being quite aware that the food provided by a French chef would never be equaled anywhere else, and certainly not at the St. Benedict's Guest House though a new building up there was most comfortable, and the accommodation left little to be desired ... Up at St. Benedict's I was at no great distance from the Agricultural College (14), where I had made several friends, and Mr. and Mrs. Pickles (15) usually came to see me on Sunday afternoon, for tea, with their lovely little boy, aged about 2 ½, and then we would go for a walk, up to the forest and over the long wooden bridge (16),

where Godfrey had to be carefully watched, as it was in several places very much out of repair. I always felt a scared and squeamish feeling, whenever I crossed this bridge, even on week days with my boy Peter, which as there was no water below, only a deep ravine luxuriant in vegetation, I failed to account for, till we discovered towards the end of my visit up here, that it was the stronghold of snakes, their holes being in the face of the rock just below, and that much dreaded and most poisonous of species, commonly known as "the BushMaster", from its fearless methods of unprovoked attack, was amongst them. One of these brutes, though luckily not a very large one, came up through one of the many cavities in the bridge, after me one day, so that Peter was unable to get past, but I called back to him, to throw a stone at it, and this he did with such good effect, that I believe he killed that one, at any rate he said he did, but doubtless there were others as this was by no means the only BushMaster I had seen on St. Benedict's mountain. This mountain is generally not considered a good locality for collecting, but I found the longer I stayed here, the better results I was getting; for instance, *Catagramma astarte*, considered a rare butterfly in Trinidad, was almost common, and even the females were quite easily met with, also *Preponas* (13) which at first I had not seen here, were now coming to my baits. All the same, what with the snakes, the wind, and one thing and another, also having had a very satisfactory Letter of Credit from the Midland Bank at home, I was not sorry that I was now able to return to Port of Spain. But Sands' Hotel was full up, so I came here to the Hotel Monaco, ...

"... there were several little things to attend to, as usual, and I had ordered Blackman to be here with his taxi at 08.30:a.m. The most important thing I had to do, was to set a fine female specimen of *Zaretas isadora* (17), which emerged yesterday, now leaving my hat box empty of pupae for the first time since I have been on this island, and a most unusual occurrence anywhere. Neither have I much coming out now, two or three *Aristolochia* feeding ²"Papilios"(?) about a dozen little *Dynamine* larvae from ova laid by captive females in a cage on this table, the residue of some 20 ova, being those which having escaped the cannibalistic tendencies prevalent amongst the young larvae of this species, these survivors no doubt being those who were guilty of disposing of their comrades. I also have two fine ³larvae feeding on *Casearia*, which I take to be skippers, and hope eventually to confirm as such, especially as the first one I had was parasitized as a pupa producing a lot of disgusting maggots which I handed over together with their pupa shell to Mr. Pickles who informs me that they have produced Diptera which he finds most interesting so of course he too is anxious to identify the host.

"It was already 8 o'clock when I got down to breakfast, and Blackman arrived with his taxi before I had finished and George (the boy) having also turned up in good time, I had to hurry up a bit. However we were already at the foot of the Hololo Mountain at about 20 to 9, and having ordered Blackman to return for me at 2.30:p.m., I began the very arduous climb, and arduous indeed did I find it, the elasticity of youth with its eager optimism having left me many years ago, and this path is so steep in some places, that I can only compare it to a corkscrew staircase, so that it was indeed a relief to reach more level ground after about 2 hours' steep climb, passing the Chinese people's house where the very nasty tempered dog was not so much in evidence today. But I was not going yet to Mr. Sheldon's *Prepona* place, meaning first to climb to where *Adelpha lara* is said to fly fairly commonly (not far away, but very steep again). I have practically given up all hope of finding any more of its larvae, which feeds on the trumpet tree (*Cecropia peltata*)

(20) so that I have only drawn the chrysalis. There were quite a lot of things on the wing up here, but the sun had gone behind a cloud, so I agreed to go on as far as the Radio Station. George, who is only a young boy, not more than fifteen, had never been there and was keen on going, ... Well, to return to the Radio Station, there was the same [man] ... He soon informed me that Mr. — (I failed to catch the name) was there today, and as he had heard of me from Mr. Sheldon, would no doubt like to make my acquaintance. I found him most friendly, having apparently known Mr. Sheldon very intimately during his stay in Tobago. ... He seemed keen on Entomology, though not working seriously at this most fascinating occupation. He told me that on one occasion he had obtained several posthumously produced ova from a female *Morpho*, and that they had all hatched, but as he had had no idea of what was the food-plant of these larvae, they had all died, so I told him the plant and he said he knew the *Bignonia* (21) quite well, so next time he will, I hope, have better luck. On the way back I caught a beautiful specimen of a female *Catagramma* and further down after wasting some time netting bad specimens of *A. lara* I caught a beautiful⁴ erycinid, that transparent one with the long tails, in perfect condition. ... We found the bottle of bait, which consists of golden syrup and rum exactly as we had left it behind a large tree, in a cleft between its buttressed roots, nothing human or otherwise having touched it, and the concoction inside it was quite good still, though it is nearly a fortnight since I was last up on this mountain. It is a messy business painting these trees to attract the *Preponas*, or anything else that may come along. George held the bottle and I manipulated with the long handled brush I have bought for this purpose, leaving my net on the ground until the sticky mess is finished with, and I am able to do my best to wipe my fingers clean, on the broad leaves of the cocoa trees. Not much luck however attended my efforts here, there were still *Preponas* and *Aganisthos* (22) on the wing, and one or two were already aware of my baits, but they are such shy devils, that however much they seem to be appreciating the feast I have provided for them, they always manage at my approach to get a move on, while I am still at a safe distance. I leave George to rest himself while I plod to and fro, and on one occasion he was quite excited, having secured an egg, but it was only the *Cystineura* (23) and he admitted that it was on "Sootie" that he had seen it deposited. I believe I ought to have kept it just to encourage him, but we just put it back on the plant, as I did not want it. The weather now in the early afternoon, was more glorious than ever, and the sun was shining hot and strong all the way back; I picked up a few things I wanted, including one or two lycaenids, but I found the return journey down that steep path, even more trying than the climb, for though my knee no longer bothers me, I have injured the big toe on my left foot, which has been giving me trouble and as it almost invariably gets a sharp knock or two against a stone every day I go out ever since, it has at present had no chance of getting well though now I am trying to be more careful, but it is still painful, sometimes very much so, even when escaping the usual knocks, so I descended slowly and laboriously, and oh the way was long and tedious; for there was nothing much of interest en route, except to see quite a number of fine specimens of *Aganisthos odius* (22) flying some 20 to 30 feet up in the air and never showing the slightest inclination to descend. A short time before we had at last reached the foot of the mountain, George heard a motor horn which he said was Blackman coming to fetch us; and it was good to find him there waiting, for us after more than 5 hours on foot to sit comfortably on the back seat of Blackman's car, was decidedly pleasant and in less than no time to be back at

Monaco Hotel. ... I ... went up to my room to begin setting at once. Four of the specimens were quite good (I didn't expect more) the female *Catagramma* was fine, though a male I had subsequently caught of that same species, was in wretched condition; the erycinid was perfect, also one *Heliconius ricini*, a species which for some cause or other is very difficult to get in perfect condition, and even among the *lara* (5 in number) there was one good enough to set back view, but the four 4 others were worthless. I papered a big skipper and two lycaenids, for the B.M., and one very perfect *Callicore* (24), which is for George, as he always evinces intense admiration for this lovely little butterfly, so that I had caught this one today specially for him, having myself bred so many of this species that I have practically all I need. I had had nothing to eat all day and was feeling decidedly the worse for wear, so I was not sorry when the knock came on my door to tell me that my tea was ready. ...

Notes

- (1) St. Clair lies north-west from the Port of Spain Savannah, and leads to Lady Chancellor Road, one of the traditional collecting sites around Point of Spain (Barcant 1970).
- (2) Belmont is a suburb of Port Spain, which is occasionally mentioned as a collecting locality in the early literature on Trinidad Lepidoptera.
- (3) A classic collecting site to the north of Port of Spain (Barcant 1970), although not an area familiar to me.
- (4) St. Ann's lies to the north-east of Port of Spain's savannah; St. Ann's, St. Ann's Valley and St. Ann's Peak are classic Trinidad collecting sites (Barcant 1973).
- (5) Plantagenet Lechmere Guppy (1871-1934), one of the founders of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club (Guppy 1991).
- (6) This is likely to be the Cane Mort Bleu, *Caligo illioneus saltus* Fruhstorfer (see Barcant 1970).
- (7) The Bee, *Chorinea octavius* Fabricius (*Zeonia faunus* Fabricius in Barcant 1970).
- (8) I believe this is correctly transcribed, but do not recognize the term.
- (9) John Golding Myers (1897-1942) was at this time working for the Imperial Parasite Service (precursor of CABI Bioscience) on the biological control of sugar cane pests, based in Trinidad but looking for natural enemies in South America (China 1942, Bennett & Cock in prep.). Mrs. I.H. Myers was an anthropologist.
- (10) F.W. Ulrich (Ulrich is a rare lapse by Miss Fountaine) was Government Entomologist for many years (de Verteuil 1996).
- (11) AUK-based butterfly collector, who provided the most recent documentation of the Tobago butterflies (Sheldon 1936, 1938). His collection was bequeathed to the Natural History Museum, London.
- (12) Hololo Mountain Road climbs a spur of the Northern Range above Port of Spain, and is another classic collecting site (Barcant 1970), although housing now extends far up the spur.
- (13) The King Shoemakers of Barcant (1970); now placed in the genera *Prepona* and *Archaeoprepona* (see Papworth 1982).
- (14) The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, now the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.
- (15) A. Pickles worked with J.G Myers (9) in the early 1930s and at about this time (1937) became the Government Entomologist until at least 1945.
- (16) I assume this refers to what is now an iron and concrete walkway against the cliff on the track from St. Benet's Hall at the top of the St. Benedict's Monastery complex, to the water tanks in the valley behind, en route to Mt. Tabor.

(17) Now referred to as *Zaretis itys itys* Cramer (*Anaea itys* of Barcant 1970).

(18) Currently referred to as *Parides neophilus parianus* Rothschild & Jordan and *Parides anchises cymochles* Doubleday respectively (see Barcant 1970).

(19) The Trinidad subspecies is now referred to as *Mysoria barcastus alta* Evans, although ssp. *venezuelae* occurs on Tobago (Cock 1981). I have reared this species on *Casearia sylvestris*, *C. guianensis* and *C. spinescens* (Flacourtiaceae) (M.J.W. Cock unpublished).

(20) Barcant (1970) does not include this food plant record. Around 1980 F.C. Urich (nephew of F.W. Urich (10)) told me that *Cecropia peltata* was the food plant of *Adelpha lara*. At about this time I found a larva on *Cecropia peltata* that I reared through to a pupa, which although it failed to emerge showed the diagnostic black and red wings clearly visible. This was subsequently published in Aiello (1984) as a personal communication.

(21) This is presumably a reference to *Paragonia pyramidata* (Bignoniaceae), which is well known as the food plant of the morpho, *Morpho peliades insularis* in Trinidad (Kaye 1921, Stollmeyer 1932, Barcant 1970; Urich & Emmel 1991).

(22) i.e. *Historis odius orion*, the Grape Shoemaker of Barcant (1970).

(23) i.e. *Mestra cana* Erichson, the Grey Handkerchief of Barcant (1970), who gives the food plant as *Dalechampia pruriens* (i.e. *D. pruriens*, a synonym of *D. tiliaefolia*), the nettle vine.

(24) i.e. *Diaethria clymena aurelia* Guenée, the 89 (*Callicore aurelia*) of Barcant (1970).

THE FOUNTAINE-NEIMY COLLECTION

In 2003, I examined the Fountaine-Neimy Collection at the Norwich Castle Museum, and catalogued the Trinidad material. All specimens in the collection are in excellent condition, many of them having been reared. None have any more specific locality data than "Trinidad". Although the 1911-12 and 1931 collections from Trinidad have been integrated into the main sequence of the collection, that from 1936-37 has not and is found in a group, along with other similar groups at the end of the main sequence. I recorded 880 specimens from Trinidad, representing a mere 140 species out of around 750 currently known from Trinidad (M.J.W. Cock unpublished). It is likely that I did not spot every Trinidad specimen in the day that I spent doing this, e.g. I have no record of *Morpho peliades* in the collection from Trinidad, which seems unlikely, especially since Miss Fountaine implies in her journal that she reared this species. Although there are plenty of good captures amongst the FNC, there are few meriting special comment. However, I take this opportunity to illustrate two species of Hesperidae Genera Group E, *Sostrata festiva* Erichson (Fig. 1) and *Pythonides limaea limaea* Hewitson (Figs. 2-3) from the FNC as these species were not available to me when I wrote up and illustrated that section of the Trinidad Hesperidae (Cock 1986).

Part of the reason for this surprisingly low number of species is that Miss Fountaine only accepted perfect specimens, but more important was her taxonomic focus. She specialised in Nymphalidae (sensu lato), of which she collected 70 species (50% of the 141 spp. in Barcant (1970)) and Papilionidae of which she collected 6 species (40% of the 15 spp. in Barcant (1970)). Other families were less well represented: Pieridae 8 (30% of the 27 spp. in Barcant (1970)), Riodinidae 21 (18% of the 119 spp. in Cock & Hall (in prep.)), Lycaenidae 8 (6% of the 136 spp. in Cock (unpublished)) and Hesperidae 27 (9% of the 307 spp. in Cock (in prep.)).



Fig. 1. Male *Sostrata festiva* Erichson, Trinidad, i.1912, M.E. Fountaine (Fountaine-Neimy Collection, Norwich Castle Museum)



Fig. 2. Male *Pythonides limaea limaea* Hewitson, Trinidad, i.1912, M.E. Fountaine (Fountaine-Neimy Collection, Norwich Castle Museum)

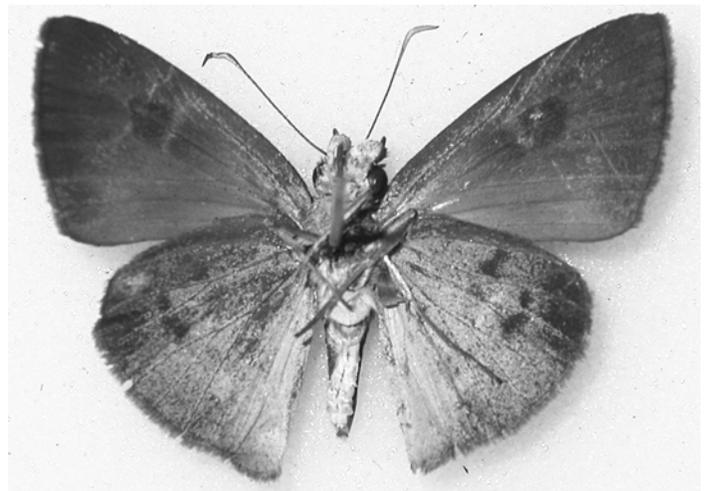


Fig. 3. UNS of Fig. 2.

Of these 140 species, 39 species in the FNC included reared specimens from Trinidad (Table 1). Unfortunately, the specimen labels in the FNC do not include details of the host plants of the reared material; hopefully this information is included in Miss Fountaine's sketchbooks in the Entomology Library of the Natural

History Museum, London. Of the species listed in Table 1, the food plants of most are known to local collectors and were included in Barcant (1970). How much this was due to information exchange between Miss Fountaine and local collectors, or indeed how much she may have learned from them, we do not know. The food plants of the remaining species are now also mostly known (e.g. I have reared all the Hesperidae that Miss Fountaine reared). However, as yet few of these life histories have been well documented from Trinidad.

DISCUSSION

Apart from the two books published from her journals, Miss Fountaine is not a well-known naturalist. I cannot trace any butterflies named after her, although during her lifetime she refused to allow species to be named after her (A. Irwin, pers. comm. 2004). More recently, Rydon (1971) established the genus *Fountainea* to include several species hitherto placed in the genus *Anaea* Hübner. Since then some authors have recognised *Fountainea*, others have treated it as a synonym of *Anaea* or of *Memphis* Hübner (DeVries 1987). D'Abbrera (1988) recognises *Fountainea* and adds several

Table 1. Reared butterflies from Trinidad in the Fountaine - Neimy Collection, Norwich Castle Museum.

Current name	FNC name, if different	Food plant given in Barcant (1970)	Year(s) reared
Nymphalidae			
<i>Adelpha iphicla</i> Linnaeus		<i>Gonzalea spicata</i> (1)	1936-7
<i>Adelpha lara lara</i> Hewitson		None	1937
<i>Adelpha pleasure symona</i> Kaye	<i>Adelpha symona</i>	None	1937
<i>Colobura dirce dirce</i> Linnaeus	<i>Gynaecia dirce</i>	<i>Cecropia peltata</i>	1911-12, 1936
<i>Consul fabius ochraceus</i> Butler	<i>Protogonia hippona ochraceus</i>	<i>Piper marginatum</i>	1912
<i>Diaethria clymena aurelia</i> GuenÉE	<i>Callicore aurelia</i>	<i>Trema micrantha</i>	1931, 1936-37
<i>Dynamine arene</i> Hübner		None	1937
<i>Dynamine artemisia</i> Fabricius		None	1937
<i>Dynamine mylitta</i> Cramer		None	1937
<i>Fountainea ryphea ryphea</i> Cramer	<i>Anaea phidile</i>	<i>Casearia ramiflora</i> (2)	1936-37
<i>Hamadryas februa ferentina</i> Godart	<i>Ageronia ferentina</i>	<i>Tragia volubilis</i>	1937
<i>Hamadryas feronia ferentulina</i> Fruhstorfer	<i>Ageronia feronia</i>	None	1937
<i>Hypanartia lethe</i> Fabricius		<i>Celtis</i>	1936-37
<i>Mestra cana</i> Erichson	<i>Cystineura cana</i>	<i>Dalechampia pruriens</i> (3)	1912, 1937
<i>Siderone marthesia</i> Cramer	<i>Anaea marthesia</i>	<i>Casearia sylvestris</i>	1936-37
<i>Victorina stelenes</i> Linnaeus		<i>Blechum brownei</i>	1936-37
<i>Zaretis itys itys</i> Cramer	<i>Zaretis isadora</i>	None	1936-37
<i>Mechanitis isthmia kayei</i> Fox	<i>Mechanitis polymnia</i>	<i>Solanum</i> spp.	1911-12
<i>Actinote anteas anteas</i> Doubleday	<i>Actinote anteas</i>	None	1931
<i>Agraulis vanillae vanillae</i> Linnaeus	<i>Dione vanillae</i>	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	1931
<i>Dryas julia julia</i> Fabricius	<i>Colaenis julia</i>	<i>Passiflora tuberosa</i>	1911-12, 1931
<i>Euides alipha</i> Godart		<i>Passiflora lonchiflora</i>	1931, 1937
<i>Heliconius erato hydara</i> Hewitson	<i>Heliconius hydara</i>	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	1911, 1931, 1937
<i>Heliconius melpomene euryades</i> Riffarth		<i>Passiflora laurifolia</i>	1911
Papilionidae			
<i>Battus polydamus polydamus</i> Linnaeus	<i>Iliades polydamus</i>	<i>Aristolochia trilobata</i>	1937
<i>Papilio anchisiades anchisiades</i> Esper	<i>Priamides anchisiades</i>	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	1911-12
<i>Papilio androgeus androgeus</i> Cramer	<i>Iliades androgeus</i>	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	1937
<i>Papilio thoas nealces</i> Rothschild & Jordan	<i>Iliades thoas</i>	<i>Piper</i> spp.	1911-12, 1937
<i>Parides anchises cymochles</i> Doubleday	<i>Meneliades / Iliades cymochles</i>	<i>Aristolochia trilobata</i>	1937
<i>Parides neophilus parianus</i> Rothschild & Jordan	<i>Meneliades aeneides</i>	<i>Aristolochia trilobata</i>	1937
Pieridae			
<i>Phoebis argante argante</i> Fabricius	<i>Catopsilia argante</i>	<i>Inga laurina</i>	1912
Riodinidae			
<i>Anteros formosus formosus</i> Stoll		None	1936-37
Lyaenidae			
<i>Denivia hemon</i> Cramer	<i>Thecla hemon</i>	<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	1937
Hesperiidae			
<i>Chioides catillus catillus</i> Cramer		None (4)	1937
<i>Milanion hemes hemes</i> Cramer		None (4)	1937
<i>Mysoria barcastus alta</i> Evans	<i>Mysoria venezuelae</i>	None (4)	1937
<i>Nisoniades bessus</i> M ¹ schler	<i>Nisoniades macarius</i>	None (4)	1937
<i>Quadrus cerialis</i> Stoll		None (4)	1936
<i>Saliana salius</i> Cramer		None (4)	1936

Notes:

- (1) This is in error for *Gonzalagunia spicata*, which is now considered a synonym of *G. hirsuta* (Rubiaceae).
- (2) I think this is an error of identification; the food plant of *F. ryphea* is *Croton gossypifolius* (Euphorbiaceae).
- (3) As noted in the text, this is a synonym of *D. tiliifolia*.
- (4) Barcant (1970) listed the Trinidad and Tobago Hesperidae, but does not include food plant records.

¹ *Zeonia chorineus* (7)

² *Menelades aeneides* and perhaps *M. cymochles* (18)

³ Identified eventually at the BM as *Mysoria venezuelae* (19).

⁴ *Zeonia chorineus* (7)

more species to the genus, including *F. ryphea*. This species occurs in Trinidad, where it is known as the flamingo (Barcant 1970), and is amongst those which Miss Fountaine reared here (Table 1; Figs. 4 and 5).



Fig. 4 Male *Fountainea ryphea ryphea* Cramer, Trinidad, bred i-ii.1936, M.E. Fountaine (Fountaine-Neimy Collection, Norwich Castle Museum).



Fig. 5. Female *Fountainea ryphea ryphea* Cramer, Trinidad, bred i-ii.1936, M.E. Fountaine (Fountaine-Neimy Collection, Norwich Castle Museum).

When Miss Fountaine collected and reared butterflies in Trinidad, much of what she discovered of life histories was doubtless new to science, and although she kept records and painted larvae and pupae, sadly she published very little, and nothing based on her work in Trinidad. Much knowledge was either retained by local collectors, or rediscovered by them. Even now in most cases, little more than the food plant record has been published, e.g. in Barcant

(1970) (Table 1), but note the important series of papers by F.C. Urich in *Living World* and *Tropical Lepidoptera* which deal with some of the larger species (e.g. Urich & Emmel 1991).

Norman Riley, for many years Keeper of Entomology of the Natural History Museum, London, wrote "Naturalists, particularly the kind who take a pride in building up valuable collections, are notoriously bad at recording their observations for the benefit of others. Miss Fountaine was one such. Her knowledge of the ways of tropical butterflies was profound, probably unique, but recording so little of her work in print or in any systematic form" (Fountaine 1986, pp. 135-136). I repeat this assessment, to support the exhortation of Starr (2003) encouraging Trinidad and Tobago naturalists to share their discoveries in print. If Miss Fountaine had published much of what she discovered, she would be a highly regarded naturalist today, as it is her reputation is that of a good collector.

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