

in Boos 1983:20). Given the difficulty in identifying crocodilians, we concur with Murphy (1997) that this record should be considered unreliable.

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Floyd E. Hayes and Jack C. Eitnienar

Department of Life Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

E-mail: floyd_hayes@hotmail.com

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Dry Season Spawning in the Cascadu *Hoplosternum littorale*.

Hoplosternum littorale (Hancock 1828) is a neotropical armoured catfish belonging to the family Callichthyidae. The cascadu, as the fish is known locally, spawns in the rainy season, from June to November, with main spawning activity coinciding with the heaviest rainfall in July and August (Singh 1978). The nest ranges in size from 15 to 50cm in diameter and is about 6cm in height. Each nest can contain an egg mass with 2 000 to 22 000 eggs.

Six nests of the cascadu were observed during the period 19th to 22nd February 2002 in a pond at the Bam-

boo Grove Fish Farm, Valsayn. The nests were of mean diameter 21cm \pm 2.8 S.D. Four of the six nests contained egg masses with eggs numbering 232, 365, 2 467 and 3 281 respectively. The eggs were treated with antibiotic and antifungal agents and incubated following the method described by Ramnarine (2001). None of the eggs hatched, suggesting that the eggs were infertile. The egg masses were small since Singh (1978) reported that egg masses range in size from 2 000 to 22 000 eggs with a mean of 10 500.

Indar W. Ramnarine

Department of Life Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

E-mail: indar_ramnarine@hotmail.com

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Rare Butterfly (*Helicopsis endemyon elegans*) Seen After 70 Years.

A butterfly, seen on 21 April, 2002, was tentatively identified as six tailed helicopsis (*Helicopsis endemyon elegans*). This was confirmed when a specimen was caught on 28 April, 2002 by Colin Barcant (grand-nephew of Malcolm Barcant, the author of *The Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago*). This butterfly has not been seen for about seventy years; indeed, Malcolm Barcant never saw it in the field, and the specimens in his collection were inherited from his friend Robert Dick. We were beginning to think it was either extinct or extremely localized, as we have been looking for it in its natural habitat, *Montrichardia* swamp areas, for a number of years. I caught additional specimens on 5 May, 2002 when the brood was still large and fresh.

Charles de Gannes

E-mail: KGEANN@tstt.net.tt
