

Editorial

The Living World serves to document studies and observations on the natural history of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region. We welcome recent developments in the University of the West Indies Zoology Museum at St. Augustine. In our Guest Editorial, Mike Rutherford, the museum curator, announces that the museum is open for business and describes the importance of museum collections to the documentation and study of our biodiversity. Three of the contributions to this issue of Living World refer to specimens lodged in the museum and we would like this to become the norm.

The Living World 2011 includes ten articles describing original research, the regular report of the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Birds Committee (TTRBC), seven Nature Notes and a book review. Our research papers are limited to the animal kingdom but span topics of medical interest, taxonomy, island biogeography and invasive or at least colonising species.

Perry Polar, Matthew Cock and Tamika Seales describe the itching and burning sensation that results from touching the spines of the larvae of the moth *Megalopyge lanata*. Sand flies not only itch but can transmit serious diseases. Elisha Tikasingh provides an account of collections of Phlebotomine sand flies in Trinidad between 1953 and 1977 and the diseases recovered from them. With the close relationship between vector and parasite, the taxonomy and biology of the vector is crucial to understanding and thus managing the diseases.

We are pleased to include part 18 of Matthew Cock's regular account of the Hesperidae of Trinidad and Tobago. This contribution considers eight genera which, unlike many of the previous groups, are relatively distinctive species.

Several contributions describe the fauna of small islands. Mike Rutherford reports on nine species of land snails inhabiting the Five-Islands Archipelago in the Gulf of Paria and relates this to island size. Stevland Charles *et al.* describe the herpetofauna of small islands off Tobago's north-east coast and include nine new locality records. Further north in the Caribbean, Jo-Anne Sewlal conducted a preliminary survey of St. Lucian spiders and recorded 40 species. Still further north, Courtney and Da-

vid Bass provide an account of the "Aquatic Invertebrate Community Structure in Water-Filled Bracts of *Heliconia* flowers on Saba". They recorded 20 taxa of which 17 were previously unrecorded from Saba.

The frog *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* is an exotic species from Grenada. In the 1978-79 issue of Living World, it was reported that a small population of this frog had become established in Port of Spain. S. A. Manickchan *et al.* provide an update on its distribution 30 years later. In a similar vein myself and others describe the establishment of *Anolis aeneus* (also native to Grenada) for the first time in Tobago and Ryan Mohammed *et al.* describe populations of the Malaysian prawns (introduced for aquaculture), in the river systems along the west coast of Trinidad.

A regular submission to the Living World is the report by the secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Rare Birds Committee, Martyn Kenefick. This 8th report covers 72 sightings reported in 2010 which includes one new locality record for Trinidad and one for Tobago.

This year we have seven Nature Notes including three notes on lepidoptera, two on arachnids and one each on a mollusc and a snake. Scott Alston-Smith and Matthew Cock describe the mass movement of a Lycaenid butterfly previously unrecorded from Trinidad. Matt Kelly photographed a species of hummingbird hawkmoth in Tobago which was previously unrecorded from the island. Charles De Gannes provides a food plant record of a Nymphalid moth.

Victor Townsend and others describe a novel oviposition site by a harvestman and Chris Starr and Jo-Anne Sewlal record a species of social spider new to Great Inagua, Bahamas. Mike Rutherford recovered viable land snail eggs from a bird pellet. Finally, Stephen Smith and others describe the behaviour of one of the endemic snakes of Tobago and provide us with our cover photograph.

This year we have one book review. Judith Gobin reviews the *Wetlands of Trinidad and Tobago* by Rahanna Juman.

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Cover Photograph

The snake *Erythrolamprus ocellatus* (Peters 1868) is endemic to Tobago. This specimen was collected at Runnemedede and photographed by Stephen L.S. Smith. See Nature Note on page 36.