

Editorial

The Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted at the end of 2015. This year we are honoured to receive a Guest Editorial from John Agard describing our national responsibility to reduce carbon emissions. Professor Agard describes our national approach and what institutions like the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club should be doing. We learn that we are the second highest emitter of carbon dioxide per capita in the world at about 38.2 metric tons/person. Fortunately we also learn that we know what to do, we have publicized this to the world and now need to get on with the job.

In addition to the Guest Editorial, the 2017 Living World contains nine research papers, six nature notes, one report and a book review. This year we start with a paper on the freshwater algal species *Chara*, which the authors, Julian Duncan and Judy Rouse-Millar, point out is an unfamiliar element in our biodiversity. We were pleased to receive a paper on shark and morbid species recorded in Tobago submitted by Lanya Fanovich and co-authors. The publication of citizen-based observations are a valuable source of information on our biodiversity and is in keeping with the philosophy of the Journal. Indeed, this the first paper on sharks in Living World. The marine theme continues with a paper on fibropapilloma tumours on green turtles by Michelle Cazabon-Mannette and Carla Phillips. Matthew Cock, Scott Alston-Smith and Kris Sookdeo add to our knowledge of our Lepidoptera in three research papers; one on new additions to the butterfly list of Trinidad, one on the moths of the Five Islands and one on the Lepidoptera of Huevos. Switching to fish, Ryan Mohammed and his co-authors describe the assemblages of fish in streams in northeastern Tobago. Kerresha Khan and co-authors ask whether an ocelot's origin can be determined from its coat pattern. Finally Chris Starr and Shane Ballah describe the ant fauna of urban Port of Spain.

Our nature notes are dominated by range expansion of species, both native and exotic. Roger Downie and co-authors provide an update of the spread of the introduced frog *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* in both islands. Adam Fifi and Renoir Auguste describe new locations for the introduced *Anolis watsi*. Renoir also gives an update of the distribution of the native frog *Adenomera cf. hylae-dactla* and questions whether we may have more than one species of *Adenomera*. Ryan Mohammed and co-authors provide sightings of the introduced Red-eared Slider (a terrapin), and discuss their potential invasive status. Finally we have two new island records: Rakesh Bhukal together

with Chris Starr describe the first record of the wasp *Trypoxylon albitarse* for Tobago. Rakesh also records the dragonfly *Erythemis attala* on Trinidad for the first time.

During 2016 three new species were added to the Trinidad and Tobago bird list. These include Eurasian Wigeon, Slender-billed Kite and Audouin's Gull. The report of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee highlights 2016 as having the highest number of reported sightings since the formation of the Committee. This not only illustrates the growth of birdwatching nationally but the contribution birdwatchers make to our understanding of the status of each species.

The book *The Dragonflies & Damselflies of Trinidad & Tobago* by John Michalski became available at the end of 2015. Rakesh Bhukal provides a review of this attractive book which makes this important group of insects accessible to a wider audience.

In 2016 Living World was published online in a fully searchable webpage format. Thirty-two issues of the Club's journal, dating back to 1961, are now available online and freely accessible as pdfs. Earlier editions will be uploaded during the course of the coming year. It is the editorial committee's intention to eventually make all of these editions available in the HTML format as well.

Building on our move to an online journal, we are pleased to announce the introduction of a 'continuous publication' workflow for Living World. In 2018, we will publish each research article online as soon as it has passed the peer-review process and is accepted for publication. At the end of each year, the content, together with nature notes and reports will be compiled into one issue, which will be available as 'print on demand' for those who wish to order a hard copy. The obvious advantage of this change for authors is that the submission-to-publication time will be considerably reduced, and findings disseminated in a more timely fashion. It also means that manuscripts may be submitted for consideration at any point in the year. For readers, it allows the option of engaging with the articles one by one or in an annual 'package'. Adopting this model brings us in line with the majority of journals internationally, who already practice continuous publication for the reasons listed above. Whether an author, a reader, or both, we hope that this change enhances your enjoyment of the Journal and, as always, we appreciate your feedback.

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Cover Photograph

Green Turtles were once thought to feed exclusively within areas of turtle grass. We now know that they also feed on algae associated with rocky reefs around both Trinidad and Tobago. This individual, and others, were regularly seen off the coast of Blanchisseuse in northern Trinidad. Photo Graham White.