

## Editorial

The year 2022 was marked by the lifting of restrictions imposed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing a resurgence of outdoor activities and observations. While this year's issue remains fairly slim, we have already begun to see an increase in submissions towards the end of 2022, which should be reflected in a more substantial 2023 issue. As always, we would like to thank our editorial team and all those who have served as reviewers for the journal for this year.

The 2022 issue of Living World Journal comprises an Editorial, two Research Papers, two Nature Notes and the regular Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee. With the exception of the Report, this issue is dominated by arthropods, with Nature Notes on spiders and wasps, an article on butterflies and moths, and an insect checklist for Tobago. The latter documents nearly 2,000 species of insects known from Tobago from various sources but the authors remind us that this may represent as little as 2% of the actual insect species richness for the island. This is emphasised by the paper recording 54 new records of Lepidoptera from Tobago.

From the report of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee, we learn that 80 records of rare birds were submitted to the committee during 2021, representing 55 species and that the Buff-necked Ibis was added to the official list of birds of Trinidad and Tobago.

As starkly pointed out by Starr and Hardy in this issue, there remains an enormous gap in biodiversity and natural history data from the tropics, partly due to historical disparities in research effort. Filling this gap is an important step towards more effective conservation of local and regional biodiversity. We believe that LW has an ever-important role to play in publishing peer-reviewed outputs that formally document new distribution records (e.g. Cock *et al.*, Kenefick (both in this issue)) as well as novel behaviours and ecologies (e.g. George and Deo, Sewlal *et al.* (both in this issue)). We hope the papers in this issue will encourage and inspire others to consider writing up their natural history observations for publication so that we can continue to fill this knowledge gap for the region, especially for invertebrates where the gap is likely to be largest.

We are determined to continue efforts to improve our editorial workflow in 2023. These improvements will be implemented immediately as we are pleased to have already received a number of submissions for the 2023 issue, which we hope to publish in the first half of the year as 'early views'.

As always, anyone who would like advice or guidance on publishing in Living World is encouraged to email us at [livingworldtt@gmail.com](mailto:livingworldtt@gmail.com).

**Amy Deacon, Graham White**

## Cover Photographs

Our cover photographs show the caterpillar and adult of *Dalcera abrasa* Herrich-Schäffer, [1854], family Dalceridae. The photographs were taken by Graham White at Blanchisseuse, Trinidad on 20 November 2021 and 20 June 2022 respectively. The caterpillar (front cover) was feeding on the leaves of the introduced seaside almond *Terminalia catappa* and the adult (back cover) was attracted to light at night.

This the first time this species and genus has been identified from Trinidad based on the adult. However, it is not the first record, as there have been earlier photos of the caterpillar from Brasso Seco and Gran Tacarib by Rainer Deo, but with no food plant associated. The adult was identified by Scott Miller, a Dalceridae specialist at the Smithsonian Institution, and it was only once this adult identification was made that Matthew Cock was able to match the caterpillar photos.