

THE CHACACHACARE EXCURSION, 1966

During the weekend of 28 — 30 May 1966 members of the Club went on an expedition to Chacachacare island, the most westerly of the Bocas islands — not counting Venezuelan Patos. The party consisted of G. E. L. Laforest, P. R. Bacon, H. Boos, J. Price, B. Ainscot, Miss J. Darlington, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. French, Miss H. Lewis, J. Git'ens, G. George, J. Correia, H. Yawching, and K. Cowie. Capt. A. L. Mendes and a few others also went along for the ride.

Camp was pitched under the manchineel trees northeast of La Tinta beach, and it was found that this slight distance almost served to protect the camp from interference by the La Tinta excursion day-trippers on Sunday and Bank Holiday. In spite of several heavy showers of rain no-one experienced any discomfort from the manchineel trees, while mosquitoes and sandflies were not too abundant (though the Editor was bitten by the tick *Amblyomma*).

Surveys were made of the insect, reptile, bird and plant life of the area, and some investigation of the marine fauna was carried out. It was found that, as on Huevos, it was difficult to move about in the dense underbrush, and most investigation was made along or near the existing paths to the Lighthouse, the Salt Pond and towards the Leprosarium.

Although some rain had recently fallen in Trinidad over the previous month, conditions were generally dry until this very weekend, when heavy showers over most of the mainland inaugurated the "wet season". Chacachacare itself did not experience a great deal of precipitation, although wild gusts of wind kept many of us awake on the Sunday night, holding on to the camp tarpaulins.

Our thanks, once more, go to the Trinidad and Tobago Coastguard for facilitating our transport arrangements, and to the Ministry of Health for allowing us permission to camp on the island.

