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## ***Ganyra josephina janeta* (Dixey) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae), a Butterfly Recorded on the Mainland of Trinidad for the First Time in Over 100 Years**

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## ***Ganyra josephina janeta* (Dixey) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae), a Butterfly Recorded on the Mainland of Trinidad for the First Time in Over 100 Years**

*Ganyra josephina janeta* (Dixey) is a white butterfly of the Pieridae family, with subspecies *janeta* being known only from Venezuela and some of Venezuela's offshore islands. It has been referred to as *Pieris sevanta janeta* and *Ascia menciae janeta* in the Trinidad literature (Cock 2014).

In his book *The Butterflies of Trinidad and Tobago*, Malcolm Barcant (1970) did not accept it as a valid species for Trinidad and Tobago, although he noted that a single specimen had been recorded from Teteron Bay (on the Chaguaramas Peninsula) in 1904. There were no further records until Urich (1978) discovered it on Gasparee Island, also on the Chaguaramas Peninsula, so it was finally confirmed as occurring on Trinidad and Tobago. Then in

January 1980, on a trip to Chacachacare Island, Matthew Cock and Julius Boos found it to be the commonest butterfly they encountered (Cock 1981).

On 15 October, 2014, I saw several white butterflies that looked a little different than the normal species on Point Gourde, and I captured one. It proved to be a male *G. josephina janeta*. These were very fresh individuals, so I assume they are breeding there. The specimen was positively identified by Matthew Cock.

As far as I am aware, this is the first record of the species from mainland Trinidad since the 1904 specimen was collected. Having said that, *G. josephina janeta* is plain white with only a narrow black tip to its forewings and an indistinct hindwing spot, so it is possible that it



**Fig. 1.** *Ganyra josephina janeta* upperside.



**Fig. 2.** *Ganyra josephina janeta* underside.

could have been overlooked or confused on the wing with other white butterflies found in Trinidad, such as males of *Glutophrissa drusilla* (Cramer) or even the common cabbage white, *Ascia monuste* (L.). The specimen from Point Gourde is shown in Fig. 1 (upperside) and Fig. 2 (underside). The distinctive white scaling along the veins is particularly clear in the left half of the upperside figure.

On a subsequent trip to Chacachacare, Cock (1984) witnessed *G. josephina janeta* ovipositing on *Quadrella odoratissima* (then known as *Capparis odoratissima*; Capparaceae). The recorded food plants of the genus are other species of *Quadrella* along with *Capparis* and *Forchhammeria* (Capparaceae) (Beccaloni *et al.* 2008). In *The Flora of Trinidad and Tobago*, Williams (1929) recorded eight species of *Capparis*, which are now included among the genera *Capparis*, *Quadrella* and *Cynophalla*; several of these are found on northwest peninsular Trinidad, although *Q. odoratissima* has been recorded only from Chacachacare. One or more of these is likely to be a suitable food plant for the butterfly on the main island of Trinidad.

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