

## Editorial

The 2018 issues of Living World was initially published online as separate papers, followed by the overall issue. We anticipate that this would shorten the period between submission and publication of articles and indeed as of the next issue we plan to publish the submission and publication dates. Articles for Living World can now be submitted online via our open access journal platform. (See <https://ttfnc.org/livingworld/index.php/lwj/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions>).

We are pleased to include our Guest Editorial on the importance of and recent activities to increase our knowledge of our bat communities. Unlike birds, which are regularly observed and documented, our knowledge of the diversity, distribution and habits of bats is poor. Yet they represent 70% of our mammalian fauna and are of tremendous ecological importance. What is particularly encouraging is the corporation between agencies in pushing the bat research and conservation agenda. We are highlighting these activities, both on our cover and within the pages of this Living World, with the expectation that work will continue. Indeed in this issue C.F. Loughrey provides an account of the bat communities at three contrasting locations in Tobago.

The other papers in this issue of Living World are quite variable. M.J.W. Cock provides a comprehensive account of the sphingid moths of Trinidad, all 81 species with illustrations of both adults and larvae. There are two Nature Notes targeting the larvae of Saturnid moths; a caterpillar of *Arsenura beebei* by M. Kelly and M.J.W. Cock and one on *Rothschildia vanschaycki* by D.S. Huggins, K. Sookdeo and M.J.W. Cock. J.N. Sewlal concludes her account of the orb-weaving spider diversity within the Eastern Caribbean in a summary paper which includes all previous surveys. A more intimate association between

harvestmen and cyanobacteria is highlighted by V.A. Young, M.K. Moore and V. R. Townsend Jr.

Representing the Amphibia, we have a Research Paper recording the apparent absence of chytrid infection of frogs in northeast Tobago, by R. Thomson, P.A. Hoskisson, S. Brozio and J. R. Downie and a Nature Note on potential case of cannibalism in the tadpoles of *Mannophryne trinitatis* by R.J. Auguste and N.F. Angeli. This note highlights how much we still don't know about this phenomenon and the ecological implications within this species. Finally for the Arachnida/Amphibia R. J. Auguste, S. Maraj and R. Deo share their observations on the capture of a *Leptodactylus validus* by the spider *Ancylometes bogotensis*.

We have five Nature Notes in this issue. In addition to the four already mentioned we have a report of a new species of mussel in Trinidad and new locations for a previously recorded species.

The report of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee presents 152 records submitted in 2017. Martyn Kenefick points out that this represents the highest number of submissions and the highest number of "reportable species" since the formation of the Committee 23 years ago.

This year G.A. Rivas has provided a book review of the Reptiles and Amphibians of Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club is particularly proud of this publication as the wide list of authors are predominantly, if not all, members of the Club and regularly contribute to Living World. The fruitful collaboration is no doubt due to the activity of the TTFNC.

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### Cover Photograph

This Common Tent-making Bat, *Uroderma bilobatum* is demonstrating the important role that bats play in dispersing forest fruit, in this case a Ficus fruit. The photo was taken by Merlin Tuttle, and enhanced by Edward Rooks.