

A new record of the Large White Night

By Edward Rooks

21 Oleander Row, Victoria Gardens, Diego Martin.

APPROPRIATELY, the morning of Sunday, November 21, 1976 opened like one large, white night. It was raining steadily, and the sky was so completely overcast, with a cloud ceiling of only about 500 feet, that it seemed almost certain that our planned hike would be called off. It was decided, however, that we would still try Mt. Catherine, Chaguaramas, and we arrived there in a totally saturated atmosphere.

Sometime after midday the rain stopped, but unfortunately so had my watch, and I was unable to tell the exact time. However, it was approximately 2.15 p.m., about two minutes walking distance from the summit of Mt. Catherine, that I came upon an astonishing find.

Descending from the summit, I noticed among the short saplings at the side of the path what had first appeared to be a common sight, a number of what I thought to be EUPTYCHIA HESIONE. But there was a pallid look about the butterflies that caught my eye, and I looked at them again, noticing their and other peculiarities, so I felt that I must capture one for closer observation.

I was not immediately certain, but I can now safely say that the captured specimen is the "Large White Night", EUPTYCHIA CALPURNIA. The only previous record of this butterfly was a small brood near St. Ann's Peak summit, St. Ann's Ridge, discovered by R. Dick in 1932 (as reported in "Butterflies of Trinidad & Tobago" by Malcolm Barcant, Page 171).

I will attempt to re-visit this apparent brood as soon as possible in order to get as much information on it as I can.