

Editorial

The 2025 LW is an issue which focuses almost entirely on documenting our biodiversity. It includes one Research Article, seven Nature Notes, the annual report from the TTBSDC and a Book Review. The first paper identifies 100 new species records of butterflies and moths for Tobago. This is the fifth annual update on Tobago's Lepidoptera from Matthew Cock and colleagues, and represents a significant effort by citizen scientists, several of whom are coauthors of these articles. Thanks to these efforts and Dr Cock's expertise, we have more than doubled the known number of moths from Tobago since 2020 from 352 to 751 species, and increased the known butterflies by 10% over this period to 170. Through publishing these contributions, LW plays an important role as a repository of official checklists of T&T's known lepidopteran fauna. We encourage experts in other taxa to consider compiling similar works for submission to the journal, especially those that include and verify citizen science data in a meaningful way.

Of the seven Nature Notes, four focus on Lepidoptera. Two are first records for Trinidad, one of which was made by a secondary school student taking part in the EMA's BioREACH citizen science project. The next two Notes describe the food plants and life history of species for the first time, one from Trinidad and one from Tobago. Shaquille George and Rainer Deo use photographs to confirm the continued presence of the rarely-recorded Carr's Slender Opossum on Trinidad. It turns out that the species was previously photographed but misidentified, again highlighting how much there still is to be discovered by interested persons.

We were pleased to accept a note on the natural history of the Golden Tree Frog from Trinidad. This frog is designated an Environmentally Sensitive Species which means expanding our knowledge of its ecology is a priority. These observations were compiled by a team from the TTFNC on a visit to El Tucuche and they highlight the value of a group of like-minded persons seeking to learn and record more about our endangered species. The final Nature Note from Saifudeen Muhammad and Bryan Ramdeen is upbeat with the rediscovery of a species of tarantula as part of this year's Bioblitz survey efforts. This species has not been seen on Trinidad for more than four decades, possibly

due to overcollecting for the pet trade. While the rediscovery is something to celebrate, the threat of over-collection is still present, and it is vital that our current regulations concerning the collecting of species are fully enforced to prevent further range reduction or even local extinction in the future.

The Nature Notes are followed by the annual report of the T&T Bird Status and Distribution Committee. Martin Kenefick reports that two new species have been added to the T&T list and an additional two species to the species list for Tobago. The two species new to T&T are both migrants, one from the south (Southern Martin) and one from the north (Willow Flycatcher) and the two species new to Tobago (Slender-billed Kite and Audouin's Gull) have both wandered from their usual range, the former from South America and the latter from the Mediterranean and west coast of Africa.

Our final contribution is a review of the book *Coral Reefs of Trinidad and Tobago* by Anjani Ganase, published in 2024. In this review La Daana Kada Kanhai takes us through the book from an introduction to coral reefs and their importance to marine biodiversity globally, before zeroing in on the reefs around Trinidad and Tobago, and the people dedicated to studying and managing them.

On a wider note, the Living World Journal will be entering new territory in 2026 by registering all articles with the International DOI Foundation (IDF). As such all articles are available, and accessible in posterity, via their doi. The TTFNC will maintain our current digitised series of Living World article via unique URLs on our website and will duplicate these references with "backdated" dois. This should help with accessibility of Journal articles and is a significant step towards maintaining the status and reputation of the journal internationally.

We would like to end by thanking all of the local, regional and international peer reviewers who volunteered their time to provide detailed and constructive feedback to our authors. Their work ensures that contributions to the journal represent well-presented, good quality science, that add to our knowledge of the natural world.

Amy Deacon, Graham White

Cover Photograph

Our cover photographs shows a Golden Tree Frog *Phytotriades auratus* observed on giant tank bromeliad *Glomeropitcairnia erectiflora* at El Tucuche, Trinidad. Photo by Zakariyya Ali. See Nature Note on page 48.