

Editorial

There were eight founders of the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club in 1891, and biographies of five of them were published in the centenary issue of 1991-1992. This issue includes one of F.W. Urich, the last of the well-known founders. The remaining two left no published material and facts about their lives are so scant that more research will have to be done before we can publish anything worthwhile. Fr de Verteuil's account of the life of Urich was published in his book "The Germans in Trinidad" (1994) and he graciously gave us permission to abstract what we wanted from this publication. We thank him sincerely.

In the early years of the club there was probably no talk of conservation because at that time there was no obvious need for it. Now the need should be obvious to everyone, even those in high places who can do something about it but prefer to remain inactive or place their priorities elsewhere. In Our 1978-1979 journal (so labelled incorrectly for 1979-1980) we opened it to conservation matters and in the next issue published the paper by Adams and Baksh entitled "What is an Endangered Plant?" Now we publish a package of three papers on different aspects of conservation problem. Paul Comeau traces the reasons for forest decline in Trinidad and Tobago; the club's Botany group describes their study of revegetation in an abandoned quarry, and Denis Nardin, the former Ambassador of France to this country (who was an active and valued member of the club) gives an account of the conservation efforts in the built-up areas of France. It is a warning about what we may be facing in the next 20-30 years.

The remaining articles require no special comment.

V.C.Q.

Front Cover:

Silhouette of Cook's Butterflies and a portrait of Anolis extremus.

Pictures of Anolis Extremus by Hans Boos. Graphics by Paul Christopher

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The Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club

The Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club was founded on the 10th July, 1891. Its name was changed to the present on in 1974. It was incorporated by an Act of Parliament (ACT No.17 of 1991). The objects of the club are tobring together persons interested in the study of natural history, the diffusion of knowledge thereof and the conservation of nature.

Monthly lecture meetings are held at St. Mary's College on the second Thursday of every month while field excursions are held on the last Sunday of each month, except December.

Membership is open to all persons of at least fifteen years of age, who suscribe to the objects of the club.

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