

Editorial

Our Club's Logo

The image of an Inca beetle with the words *Natura maxime miranda in minimis* was chosen as our logo and first published in the Journal of the Field Naturalists' Club of 1892. The reason for choosing this beetle for our logo was not recorded. The Journal ceased publication in 1896, but was restarted in 1956. In re-establishing the Journal, the Editors of that issue wanted to include the logo, but could not find the original woodcut of the image engraved by our first President, H. Carraciolo. A specimen was obtained from the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology from which a new drawing was made by J. S. Kenny for the 1956 issue (p. 27). This drawing was used on the cover or on the title page in all issues of the Journal from 1956 to 2005 and in official documents of the Club. Kenny's original drawing seems to be lost.

In 1985, Julius Boos and Brett Ratcliffe described a new subspecies of the Inca beetle in the Coleopterists Bulletin (vol. 39, No. 4). They named it after Dr. Victor Quesnel, *Inca clathrata quesneli* and noted that this subspecies was found only on Trinidad.

During our centenary year, 1991, a special coloured centenary logo was created depicting three aspects of the environment, with the Inca beetle, which appears to be similar to the Boos and Ratcliffe image, superimposed on it. A circle with the words "Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club" and "Founded in 1891" appeared around the art work and under it the words "*Natura Maxime Miranda in Minimis*" inscribed.

Subsequently, around 1994 some aspects of the centenary logo were omitted and the image of the beetle used was either Kenny's original drawing or the one which appeared on the centenary logo. It is time that the Management Committee decide which image of the beetle should be used in our logo.

Nevertheless, the title page of Living World will now include the Boos and Ratcliffe image of the beetle with its identification. This image originated from Dr. Ratcliffe's laboratory and he has given us permission to use it.

The 2006 Issue of Living World

Trinidad and Tobago are two small islands with a growing population. It is also becoming heavily industrialised so there is a constant demand for space. We are pleased to have Professor John Spence as our Guest Editorialist to discuss "Land Usage in Trinidad and Tobago".

In this issue, Charles Collins studied the growth and development rates of two tanagers in Trinidad and showed they were lower than similar sized birds in the temperate zone. He also noted that the chicks gaped silently rather than noisily which could be an antipredator adaptation.

Two of our regular contributors continue with their series: Matthew Cock with skipper butterflies of Trinidad, Group L and David Bass on freshwater macroinvertebrates in the Caribbean, focussing this time on St. Kitts and Nevis.

Victor Quesnel reports on his observations of the reproductive behaviour on the gecko *Thecadactylus rapicauda*.

Knowledge on spiders in Trinidad and Tobago is limited so with this in mind we publish a key to the identification of spider families with colour photos to some representative species.

In this issue there are five Nature Notes. One on nesting behaviour of caimans in the Rupununi Savannahs by

Shirley Humphrys. We welcome her to our pages and hope she can continue to contribute on her observations on wildlife in the Rupununi, Guyana. Allan Hook records a species of wasp new to the fauna of Trinidad and Tobago. Matthew Cock points out that Trinidad's Leaf Shoemaker is *Zaretis ellops* and not *Z. itys*. R. G. Cooper notes that because the African Giant rat is becoming a pet animal it may be widely distributed and suggests that we maintain surveillance for its presence. Christopher Starr and Jo-Anne Sewlal discuss heights above the ground as a niche separator in two orb-weaving spiders in Nevis.

There are two book reviews: one by Matthew Cock on the butterflies of the French Antilles and the other on Carol Gould's biography of William Beebe, who established the Tropical Research Station at Simla (Arima Valley, Trinidad) for the New York Zoological Society and where Beebe ended his days. This review is written by Christopher Starr.

Dr. Charles Dennis Adams spent four years in Trinidad and contributed greatly to the knowledge of our flora. Yasmin Baksh-Comeau paid tribute to Dr. Adams in an obituary written for the "Fern Gazette" and we have permission from the Editor of that Journal to reproduce this obituary.

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