

# LIVING WORLD

Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago

Field Naturalists' Club

[admin@tffnc.org](mailto:admin@tffnc.org)

ISSN 1029-3299



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

## Some Butterflies and Other Arthropods from Trinidad in a Florida Museum

Julius Boos

Boos, J. 2010. Some Butterflies and Other Arthropods from Trinidad in a Florida Museum.  
*Living World, Journal of The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club*, 2010, 86-87.

---

## Some Butterflies and Other Arthropods from Trinidad in a Florida Museum

As an individual interested in natural history, I have collected from the 1960s to the 1980s, a large assortment of arthropods in Trinidad and Tobago. I have just donated my small but important and valuable collection of butterflies (148 specimens), a large collection of scorpions (all species recorded from Trinidad and many from South America comprising approximately 200 specimens), and scarab beetles (approximately 700 specimens) to the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture-DPI, 1911 SW 34th St., P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100, U.S.A.

The most important specimens amongst the butterflies are three male specimens of the Brassolid butterfly *Selenophanes c. cassiope* (Cramer), closely related to the two species of Trinidadian *Opsiphanes* ("Barks"), the difference being that *Selenophanes* is larger and has slightly more elongate wings, and the "eye" markings on the underside of the hindwings are reniform/comma-shaped in the genus *Selenophanes*, and round in *Opsiphanes*. Collecting dates for the three males are 5 December, 1977, 5

January, 1980 and 20 January, 1980. I had also previously deposited the first specimen I discovered, a female collected 29 November, 1977 in the same area of Palo Seco, at the Natural History Museum, London, where a positive identification was made (Boos 1979). Scott Alston-Smith collected a female *Selenophanes cassiope* feeding on ripe banana at Inniss Field/Cats Hill Reserve on 3 June, 2006. This is 26 years after my collections at Palo Seco/Parrylands, and 40 km to the east which suggests that this genus of Brassolid is now firmly established as a member of Trinidad's butterfly fauna.

I also donated a series of the rare swallowtail the *Aristolochia*-feeding *Battus lycidas*. Previous to my collections, only two specimens of this butterfly had been collected on Trinidad, one in 1921 by R. Dick at the Pitch Lake, and a second by C. Urich in 1959 in Cedros. I took Colin Barcant and Scott Alston-Smith to "my" special collecting area in Palo Seco, and they managed to collect a few specimens, so a few should still be in their collections. I also collected a few females of this species. In

all the publications I have read and in large series I have seen in museums, I have never seen a female specimen of this species. I also caught and donated what I refer to as a purple aberration male, as in place of the greenish sheen on the surface of his wings, this has been replaced by a much more beautiful purple sheen. Several other rare Brassolids, Papilionids, *Prepona* spp., *Anaea* spp., and others, many in perfect condition raised from wild-collected larvae, were also in my donated collection.

A trio of the very small species *Papilio torquatus* was also in the donation. The male has black markings on yellow like the two much larger “King Pages” on Trinidad, but the rarer female is coloured black with two white spots on the forewings, two red spots on the hindwings, and so becomes an almost perfect mimic of the female of a species of the *Aristolochia*-feeding and hence distasteful *Parides* spp., even to her flight pattern which is quite different to the males of her species. Unlike *Parides* spp.,

she retains the well-developed “swallowtails” on the edge of her hindwings. I know of only two areas where one has a chance of seeing this rare species of *Papilio*: one on a logging trail north of the pond at Inniss Field at the Cat’s Hill Reserve in the south, the other in the north-west at the curve just before it turns uphill on the main trail on top of Mt. Catherine, Chaguaramas.

#### REFERENCE

**Boos, J.** 1979. A new butterfly record for Trinidad, West Indies-*Selenophanes c. cassiope* (Cram.) (Lepidoptera: Brassolidae). *Aurelian*, 1(3): 1.

#### **Julius Boos**

1368 Scottsdale Rd. East,  
West Palm Beach, FL, 33417, U.S.A.  
*ju-bo@msn.com*

---