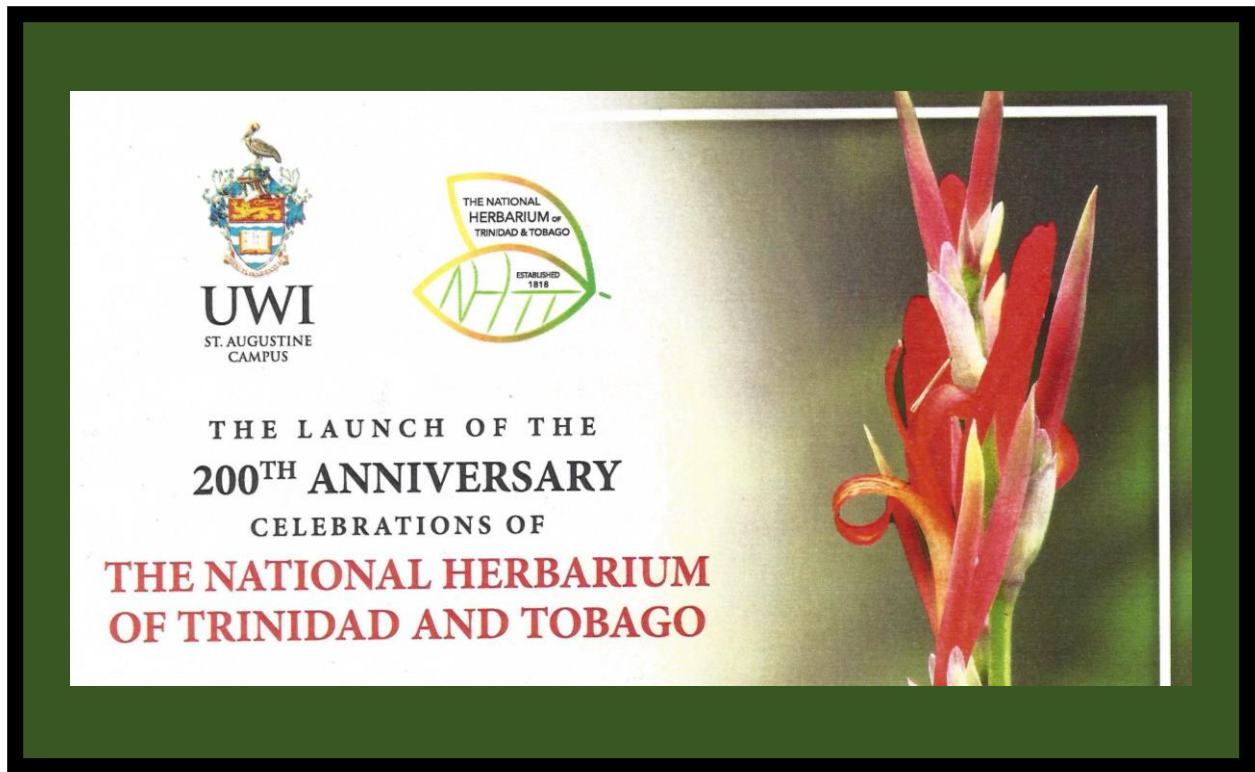


The National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago

200th Anniversary Celebrations



The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus is the custodian of one of the oldest institutions in the country, The National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago, which will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary in 2018. This institution originated in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Port of Spain when it was established by the British Crown and has flourished into an internationally respected research centre.

The National Herbarium is the only institution dedicated to the preservation, documentation and dissemination of reliable information on the indigenous and exotic flora of Trinidad and Tobago. The archival collection of plant specimens, includes the earliest surviving specimens dating from 1842. They are preserved in the form of pressed, dried specimens mounted on archival paper and labelled with their scientific names and other relevant information. The collection currently stands at approximately 70,000 specimens.

The collection is steadily growing through the Herbarium's commitment to research on the diversity and conservation of flora. This archival collection informs scientists, town planners, policy makers, foresters, eco-tourist guides, naturalists, herbalists, and anthropologists, among others, about the rich diversity of our flora and the 'botanical hotspots' of high conservation value worthy of preservation. By comparing the historical collection with modern botanical surveys, researchers, applying modern computer modelling techniques are able to predict the impact of climate change on our forest ecosystem and to influence public policy formulation.



[Plant a Tree Initiative](#)

To celebrate its 200th anniversary, the Herbarium is initiating the planting of **two hundred (200)** native species of trees on a degraded hillside close to Hillview College in Tunapuna in collaboration with The U.W.I Biological Society. A ceremonial planting of two (2) trees on the St. Augustine campus by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Principal of the Campus took place on World Biodiversity Day on the 22nd May 2018.

This larger scale tree planting initiative will take place on Friday 29th June, 2018, under the theme **“Greening the Urban Landscape”**. The event will be attended by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, The Right Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, whom together with, Hillview College’s Principal – Mr. Leslie Mahase will plant Double Chaconias. A CD presentation entitled “Waking Up to a Better Tomorrow” which highlights the importance of trees and the dangers of deforestation will be presented to the school by Soroptomist International – Chaguanas Chapter.

This joint tree planting exercise which aids in Greening the Urban Landscape will be done together with the National Herbarium and other UWI staff, members of the UWI Biological Society, members of the Forestry Division and Hillview College staff and students and other volunteers.

The Dean and staff of the Faculty of Science and Technology wishes to congratulate the National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago on the occasion of their 200th Anniversary.

For further information, please visit: <http://sta.uwi.edu/herbarium/our-200th-anniversary>

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