



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

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The Department of Life Sciences' 4th Annual Research Symposium: ***Environment for Sustainable Development***

Venue: The University of the West Indies, Lecture Theater E, The Teaching and Learning Center, St. Augustine

Day 1: 27th March, 2014 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Opening Ceremony
8:30am-9:00am

Chair – Prof. Dave Chadee
Welcome- Prof. John Agard, Head, Department of Life Sciences

Morning Session
9:00am – 12:00pm

Session 1 Chair – Michelle Cazabon

9:00am – 9:20am

Migratory passerine ecology in the Caroni Swamp
Rachel Boodoo

9:25am - 9:45am

Shorebird habitat use in the Caroni Swamp
Hema David

9:50am – 10:05am

Mapping the potential distribution of the introduced common waxbill,
Estrilda astrild, throughout Trinidad
Karyce Phillips

10:10am – 10:30am

Bat diversity and habitat use in the Caroni Swamp
Rachel Campbell

10:30am - 10:45am

COFFEE BREAK (refreshments provided)

Session 2 Chair – Karyce Phillips

- 10:50am – 11:10am Small mammal ecology of the Caroni Swamp
Danielle Lewis
- 11:15am – 11:35am Silky Anteater density and home range in the Caroni Swamp
Danya Alexander
- 11:40am – 12:00pm Red palm mite in native palms at Nariva
Sharlene Subit

12:00 – 12:45pm LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon Session Session 3 Chair – Danielle Lewis **12:45pm – 4:00pm**

- 12:45pm – 1:05pm Leaf fall and litter deposition rates of trees in the Caroni Swamp
Kirby Harripersad
- 1:10pm – 1:30pm Impact of environmental stressors on mangrove physiology – comparison of Caroni
and Point Lisas
Natalie Edgehill
- 1:35pm – 1:55pm Stand dynamics of *Avicennia germinans* in the Caroni Swamp
Richmond Bassant
- 2:00pm – 2:20pm Stand dynamics of *R. mangle* in the Caroni Swamp
Peter Elvin

Session 4 Chair – Kirby Harripersad

- 2:25pm – 2:45pm Local community use of the Caroni Swamp – South Caroni/Cacandi – attitude and
response
Aditi Thanoo
- 2:50pm – 3:10pm PPGIS for traditional uses – South Caroni/Cacandi
Reisha Boodram
- 3:15pm – 3:35pm Agro-ecology of Cocoa
Deodath Seegobin
- 3:40pm – 4:00pm Investigation of the Genetic Structure and Diversity of the Endangered Native
Orchid *Cyrtopodium parviflorum* Lindl.
Sherri Lodhar

Closing remarks Day 1 Dr. Luke Rostant

4:10pm END OF DAY 1 SESSIONS

Day 2: 28th March, 2014 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

**Opening Ceremony
8:30am-9:10am**

Chairs—Prof. Dave Chadee and Lena Dempewolf

8:30am-8:40am	Welcome from Prof Indar Ramnarine, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
8:40am-8:50am	PVC Prof. Clement Sankat, Principal
8:50am-9:00am	Mr.Richard Laydoo, The Green Fund
9:00 – 9:10am	Mr.Kishan Kumarsingh, Head, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

Oral Presentations

**Morning Session
9:10am – 12:35pm**

Session 1 Chair –Ryan Mohammed

9:10am – 9:30am	Characterization of anthracnose disease in <i>Capsicum annuum</i> in Trinidad Hema Ramdial
9:35am - 9:55am	The development and characterization of enriched cultures for bioremediation of petroleum contaminated soil in Trinidad Sheldon Ramoutar
10:00am – 10:20am	Metagenomic Analysis of Soil Microbiota towards the Discovery of Novel Antimicrobial Compounds from the Nariva Swamp, Trinidad. Jewelle Glasgow
10:25am – 10:45am	Novel non-invasive procedures for early detection of diabetes mellitus in community-based samples Andrew Dhanoo

10:45am–11:00am

COFFEE BREAK (refreshments provided)

Session 2 Chair -Kerresha Khan

11:00am – 11:20am	Video: The buzz about bees: What do pollinators contribute? Lena Dempewolf
11:25am – 11:45am	Potential Impacts of Climate Change on St Lucian Vegetation and Endemic Parrot, <i>Amazona versicolor</i> Mia Avril
11:50am – 12:10pm	Kerresha Khan

12:15pm – 12:35pm	Repeated use of survey sites for studies of the biota of Trinidad & Tobago Mike Rutherford
12:35pm – 1:20pm	LUNCH BREAK
Afternoon Session 1:20pm – 5:25pm	Session 3 Chair – Caleb Lewis
1:20pm – 1:40pm	Video: Ryan Mohammed
1:45pm – 2:05pm	Video presentation: Bioethics Anastasia Baboolal, Jewelle Glasgow, Anushka Ramjag, Mike Rutherford, Simmika Seecharan, Shane
2:10pm – 2:30pm	The 'river lime' effect: human disturbance and tropical freshwater fish communities Amy Deacon
2:35pm – 2:55pm	Yasmin Baksh-Comeau
3:00pm – 3:20pm	Differences in stand structure and reproductive activity of <i>Mauritia flexuosa</i> (Moriche palm) within the different savannah environments of the Aripo Savannas Linton Arneaud
	Session 4 Chair– Anushka Ramjag
3:25pm – 3:45pm	The Role of Water relations in determining vase-life of <i>Anthurium andraeanum</i> (Hort.) cultivars Sarah Evelyn
3:50pm – 4:10pm	The rhizobia associated with pioneer species, <i>Erythrina fusca</i> , used in restoration efforts in the Nariva wetlands Sophia DeAspa
4:15pm – 4:35pm	Use of <i>Ascophyllum</i> seaweed extract as a biological alternative for improving plant growth and disease resistance in field tomatoes Nerissa Ali
4:40pm – 5:00pm	Towards an IPM programme for <i>Thripspalmi</i> Kennedy Paul
Closing remarks Day 2	Prof. Dave Chadee and Prof. John Agard
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Closing Ceremony- Presentation of prizes Light refreshments provided
6:00pm	END OF DAY 2 SESSIONS