



LUDOLF WEHEKIND - A biographical note



Ludolf Wehekind was born in 1895 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He was educated at St. Mary's College and later at Clongowes Wood College, Ireland. Although he never received any formal scientific training, happy wanderings on the family estate during his boyhood aroused in him an interest in natural history which developed with the years and eventually led to serious biological investigations of lasting value.

Thus, while in Venezuela (1925-1930) working for the Barber Asphalt Co., he was granted leave of absence to make a collection of fish for the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. This work was continued on his return to Trinidad. Several species new to science were collected and his part in the work was commemorated in the name of one of them — *Thalassophrynae wehekindi*. In 1934 with Professor Urich he studied the role of bats in the spread of paralytic rabies, and he seems to have been the first to note that *Vampyrum spectrum* is carnivorous, not frugivorous.

From 1947 to 1956 he was Government Hydrologist and his duties in this post stimulated an interest in soil and water conservation. On his retirement from Government service he accepted the post of assistant curator at the R. V. I. Museum and there indulged to the full his most abiding interest through the years — herpetology.

Mr Wehekind was elected a member of the club on 12 March 1931 and served as its President from 1945 to 1955. For many years he was a member of the Management Committee. At the special request of a former editor of the journal he prepared in 1958 an article of reminiscences, which was to be published in an issue to be dedicated to him. It is sad that the contemplated issue could not be published in his lifetime. We publish his article in this issue, which is dedicated to his memory.

V. Q.