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“Caribbean Exploration – Planning for the Future”

ABSTRACT

**ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIGNITES AND PORCELLANITES IN TRINIDAD,
WEST INDIES**

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Within the various stratigraphic units of Trinidad are found a number of lignite and porcellanite deposits. They have been the subject of discussion since Wall and Sawkins (1860) and the potentially commercial lignites were described by Guppy (1872), Cunningham Craig (1904) and) Suter (1951). Porcellanites are of economic importance since in southern Trinidad rocks that can be used as aggregate are rare. They have been and continue to be mined for use as aggregate in road foundations and construction. Lignite beds have been described from the Telemaque Member of the Manzanilla Formation, the Upper Morne L'Enfer and Erin Formations, while porcellanites are confined to the Erin / Talparo and Upper Morne L'Enfer. Observations by the author at a number of outcrops in south and central Trinidad have resulted in a number of alternative origins are presented to explain their origins.