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Title: **The Preliminary Investigation of the vegetation surrounding the mud volcanoes of Trinidad.**

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Astrobiology deals with the possibility of finding organisms thriving in the harshest conditions for life. The investigation of the vegetation surrounding the mud volcanoes of Trinidad seeks to provide a basis for the study of Astrobiology. This is due to the fact that the vegetation surrounding lives under the conditions of the nutrient deficient mud or ejecta. The vegetation has clearly evolved to accommodate such an environment and many strange adaptations leave many questions of their adaptation unanswered. Interest has been focused mainly on the geology of these sites but until recently there have been initiatives to understand the nature of the ejecta from an analytical and physical standpoint, for the purpose of astrobiology.

Around the cones of the mud volcanoes are spens of land that seem to support very little plant life. The vegetation surrounding the mud volcano seem to be almost comprised of the same species and origin and from superficial observation it was reasoned that only specific species had adapted itself to growing on the mud or ejecta. This project aims to identify these species and ultimately understand their adaptation for growth around the mud volcano. The objective of this project is also to provide a composite view of the nature of the ejecta with respect to the support of living organisms.