

Revitalizing historic and iconic Trinidad type sections through archival research within Hans G. Kugler's Legacy in Basel, Switzerland

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naturhistorisches
museum
archive
des lebens

Swiss National
Science Foundation

Kugler-Werdenberg-Stiftung

Trinidad, oil, biostratigraphy, Basel

- Trinidad Caribbean island
- Rich hydrocarbon resources
- Attracted international petroleum geologists
- Developed foraminiferal biostratigraphy
- NMB* - largest (?) Trinidad collection

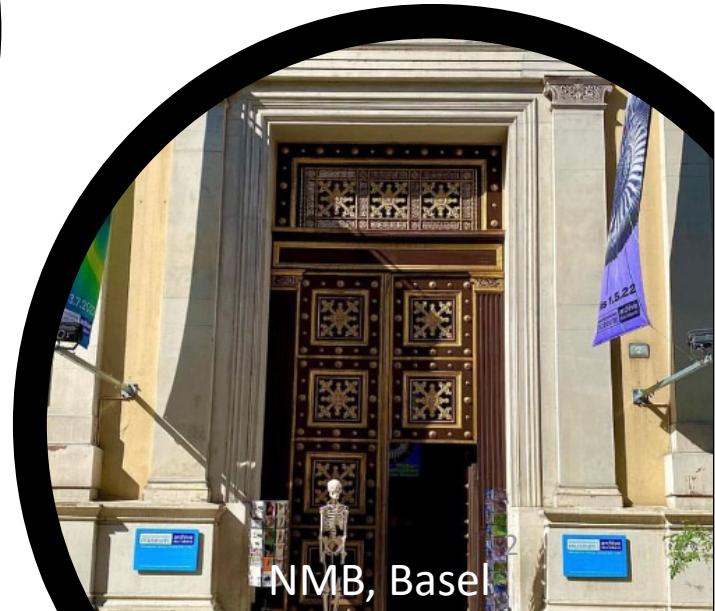
*NMB: Natural History Museum Basel,
Switzerland



Caribbean region



Oil industry, Trinidad

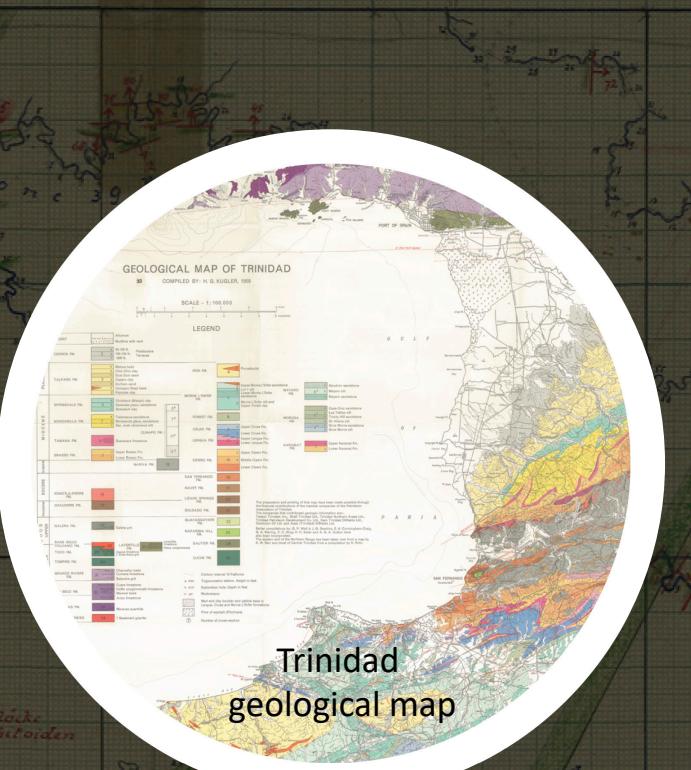
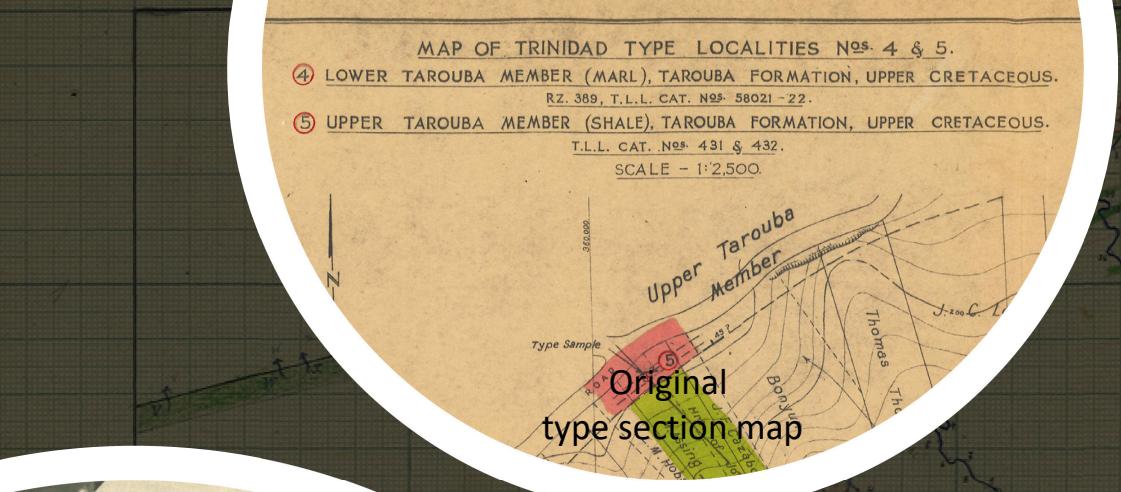


NMB, Basel

Samsoondan & Knappertsbusch

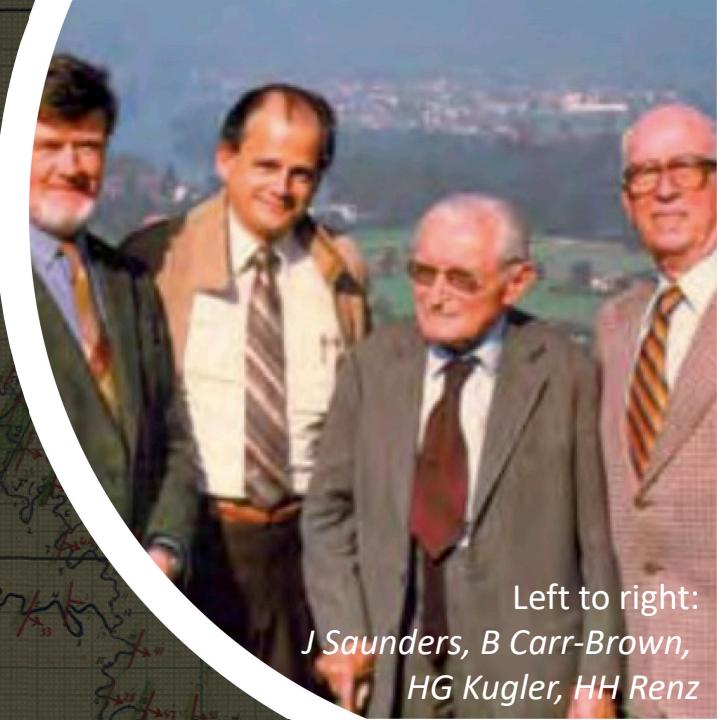


Kugler [1920] in Trinidad



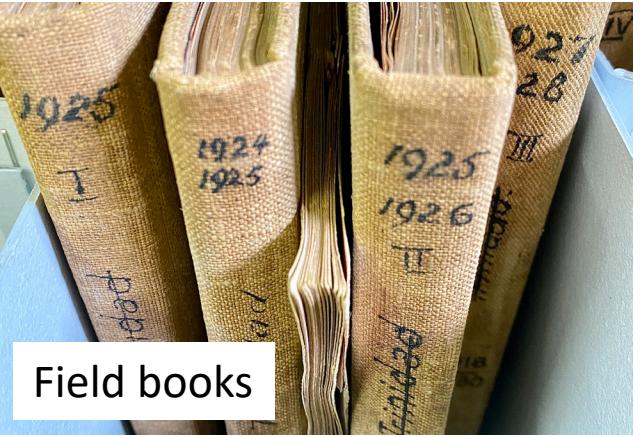
Dr. Hans G. Kugler (1893-1986)

- Swiss Petroleum Geologist
- “Father of Trinidad’s Geology”
- Established 57 type sections in Trinidad
- International standards
- Replicate material shipped around the world



Left to right:

J Saunders, B Carr-Brown,
HG Kugler, HH Renz



Largest and most complete
Trinidad collection (?) in Basel

- HGK* retired back to Basel 1959
- Material shipped to NMB
- Various authors
 - A Senn, HH Renz, RM Stainforth, B. Caudri, HM Bolli, JB Saunders
- 85 Box archive
- Photo archive
- Maps archive
- Samples
- Field books
- Hand library
- 1 year project curating collection

*HGK: Hans G Kugler

- First application planktonic foraminiferal biostratigraphy
- Cushman and Stainforth (1945)
- Renz and Stainforth (1939) – Oil company private report
- Bolli (1957), Bolli et al. (1985), Wade et al. (2018)
- Today inaccessible



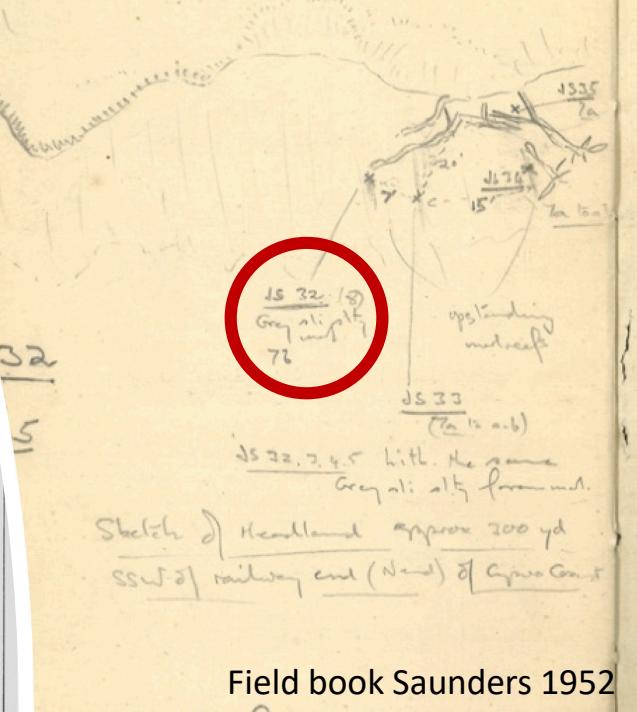
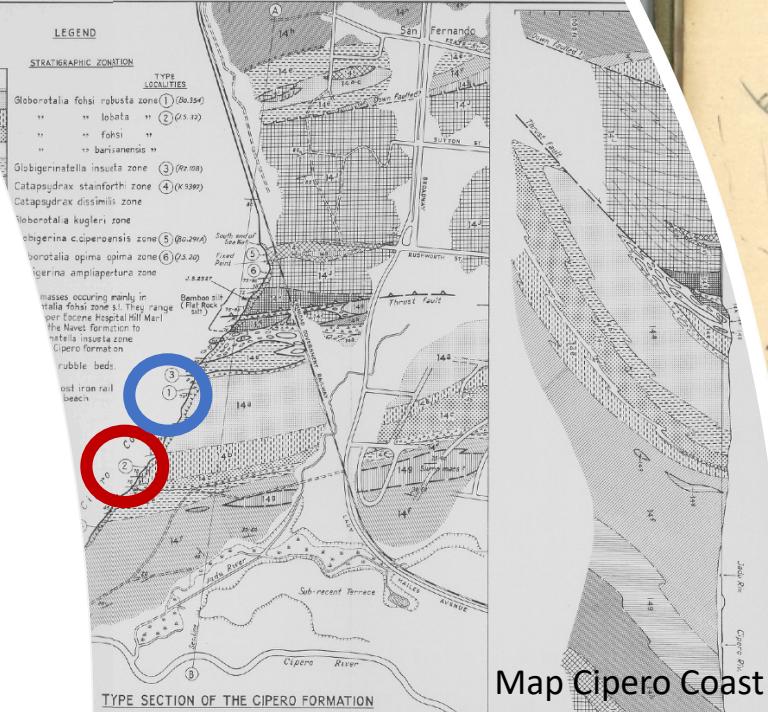
Cipero Coast [1957]

Importance of archival research: *Case study Cipero Coast, Trinidad*

The value of correspondence

'...JS 32 (2) was actually taken N of (1)."

Correspondence Hans G Kugler and John B Saunders
15th August 1964



I have been looking at the Cipero Coast again. I went down last week mainly to collect Flat Rock Tongue. I have never seen the coast in such terrible state. To start with, they are pushing clay over the cliff at the railway end and have covered the Gg 31 type locality. Also, the famous 'fixed' point rails have gone! When the ground gets a bit firmer (I had to be dug out of the beach) I shall try to tie things in again. On the Cipero enclosure K 9397 (4) is out of place by 500 ft or more. It should be level with the 65 dip. JS 32 (2) was actually taken N of (1). I told Hans this when we were looking over Bull 215 but he wouldn't believe it. There is certainly some 7b up there and I am having 10 ft samples across this interval picked now. An outsider sampling 7a is likely to get 7b at the moment.

The whole of the point at P-a-P is about to be pushed into the sea. Imagine a line from the Geol. Office to Weatherhead's old bungalow and

Cracking biostratigraphic code



Sample location



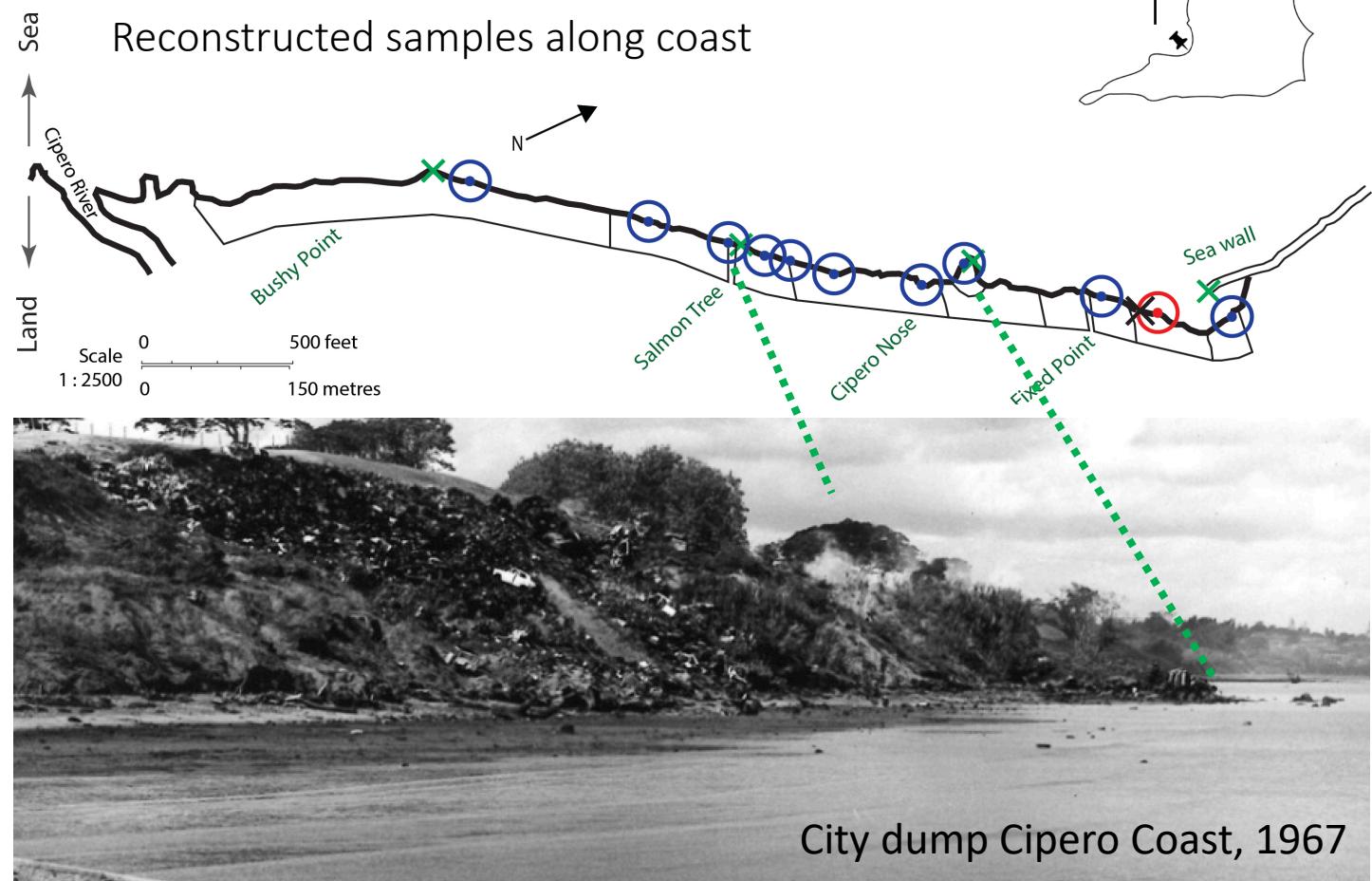
Photos



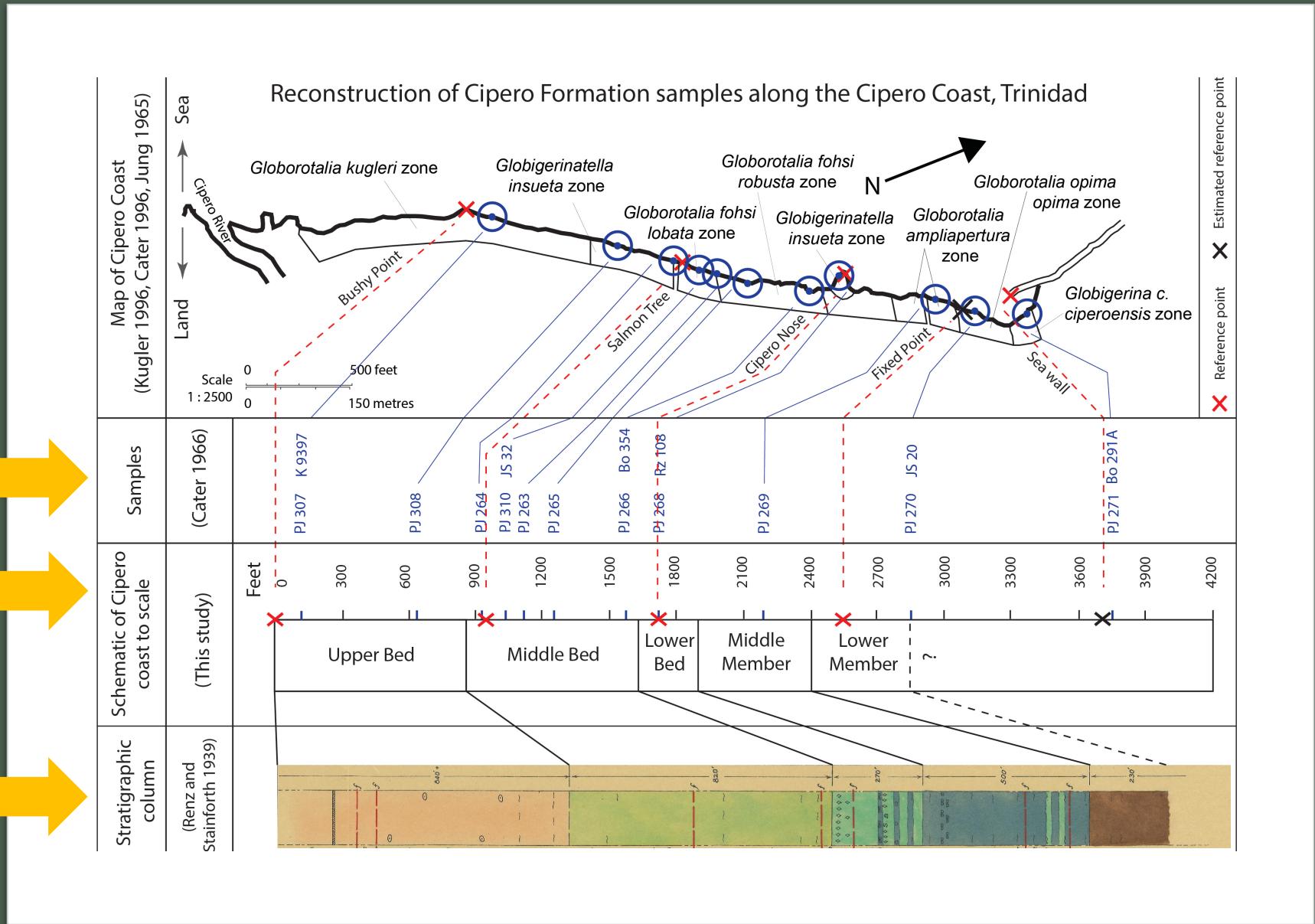
Type locality *Globorotalia opima opima* Zone

HG Kugler Legacy for curation

Cipero Coast type samples only accessible through museum collections



Type samples can be restored to original location using archives



Conclusions

- NMB houses large and complete Trinidad collection
- Archives are key to other Trinidad samples around the world
 - For curation
 - For teaching
 - For evolution of micropalaeontological practices and methods
 - For new science
- Hope to inspire other archival studies around the world



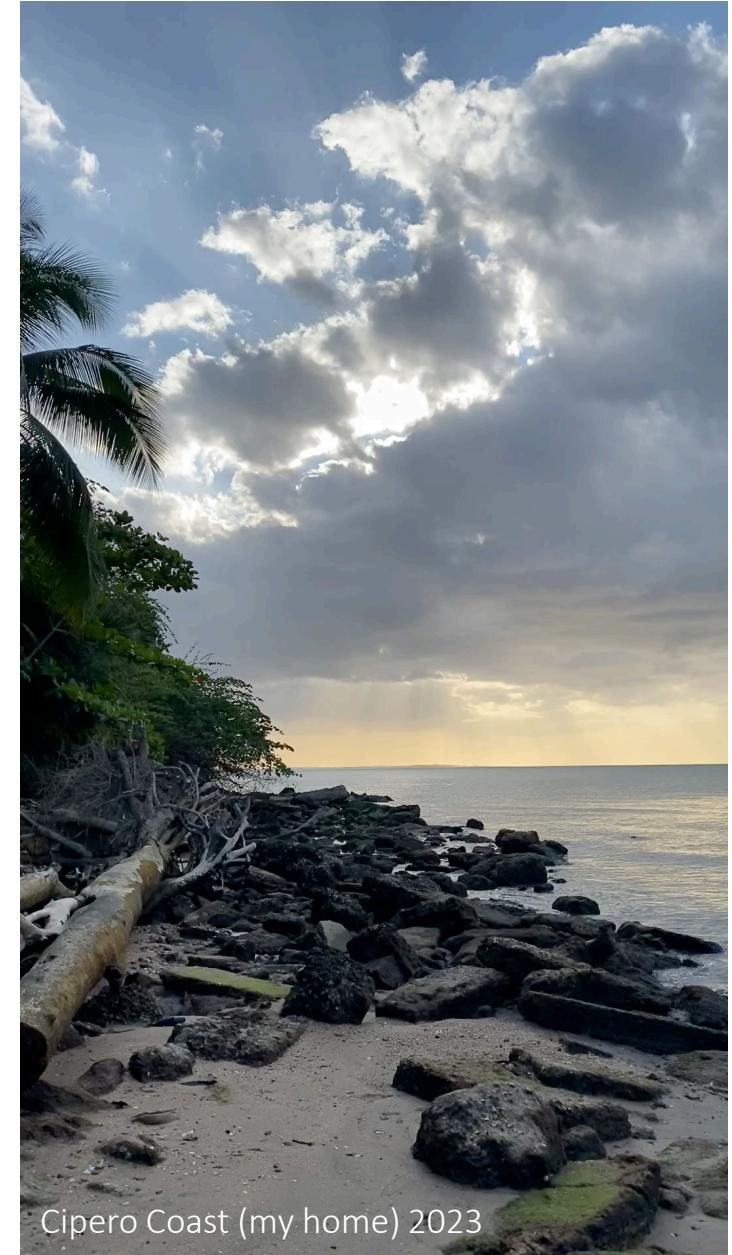
Thank you for listening

All material sourced from Hans G Kugler's Legacy, NMB



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Cipero Coast (my home) 2023