

2475

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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2475</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Puerto Rico</i>
General locality	<i>Pt. Rita Galla</i>
Locality	<i>to Lake Joyuda</i>
<u>1900</u>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>John Nelson</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	



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U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

Henry S. Pritchett, Superintendent.

State: *Costa Rica*

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
JUL 12 1900
No. 51821

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2475

LOCALITY:

*Pt. Pita Tulla to Lake
Joyuda - South West
Coast.*

1900

CHIEF OF PARTY:

John Nelson, Assistant.

2475

Sheet No.

This sheet adjoins sheet No. on the west at Pita Jolla Pt. and runs westerly to the Cabo Rojo Lt. house (Morillos de Cabo Rojo) thence in a northerly direction to Lake Joyuda - from Lat. $17^{\circ}56'$ to Lat. $18^{\circ}09'$. The shore line along the south coast is mostly low and covered with a thick mangrove swamp to within a mile of Pt. Molino whence it is a sand beach for a short distance and then a rocky bluff 25 or 30 feet high to Pt. Molino. From there to the Morillos de Cabo Rojo it is rather low and swampy with the never ending mangrove growth.

From Morillos de Cabo Rojo to a point just north of Lake Joyuda there are several stretches of sand beach - one or two rocky bluffs at Eagle Pt. & Melones Pt. with a few small sections of mangrove swamp intervening. There are no harbors on this sheet except the small bays or open roadsteads at Bogueuse Bay - Puerto Real de Cabo Rojo and Joyda - Puerto Real de Cabo Rojo is the port for the town of Cabo Rojo - which is situated about 3 miles east from the coast. All of these bays & ports are very shallow and are filled with coral heads and sand bars - only the smallest sort of craft & lighters can enter them. One peculiar

feature of the S. west corner of the Island of Porto Rico is the high range of hills as shown on this sheet. This range begins about Pt. Brea and follows the coast irregularly in a westerly direction and seems to reach its greatest elevation at Maniquita A. Station in what is called the Mozambique Range - They reach an elevation of about 300 meters & gradually drop off towards the sea - another range a little further to the westward and not so high is called the Peñones de Melones & it terminates in a rocky bluff at Pt. Melones. These are prominent land marks for navigators, and we were very much surprised to find this great range of hills, as all of the topographic charts I have seen of the island represent it as being low & level. These hills and the coast line generally on the south are covered with a dense growth of trees & brush - no cultivation of any kind is carried on, as it is impracticable to procure water - The soil is sandy reddish clay.

A beautiful little valley ^{Extends} from 1 to 2 miles wide, from Boqueron Bay due east to Lake Guanicu and thence to Jauco; about 30 miles long. This valley is devoted entirely to the cultivation of sugar cane - The foot hills afford excellent pasturage for the immense herds of Oxen employed on the sugar plantations - The brush & cactus is very dense upon

the tops of the ridges & hills that it is impossible to get through it without cutting a trail.

Boqueron is a small town consisting principally of shacks, and the people are mostly fishermen.

At Joyuda quite a number of houses are built on the beach, it being a resort for the people from the interior towns, during the summer, (Raining season) Cocoa nut groves extend all along the west coast.

Cabo Rojo Lt. Hs. is situated on a very prominent knoll at the extreme south west corner of the Island and is on a small island connected with the main land by a small foot bridge. The light is a revolving white one.

There are numerous large salt ponds in the vicinity or just north of the light house and also near Boqueron Bay, where thousands of tons are produced from the evaporation of sea water.

Lake Joyuda is a small body of salt water at the northern limit of this sheet - it is connected with the sea by a very narrow crooked channel - the tide flows in & out of it. It is quite a resort for fishermen.