



STRI NEWSLETTER

34

AUGUST 26, 1983

SEMINAR

The noontime seminar at Ancon on Tuesday, August 30th at 12 noon will be given by JAMES FULLARD, University of Toronto, who will speak on: "Sensory ecology of moths and bats on the island of Kanai".

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Staff Travel:

August 29 - Leaving, HARIS LESSIOS, for Miami, to collect specimens of diseased sea urchins. He is returning on August 31st.

August 31 - Leaving, ALAN SMITH for Kenya to continue studies on the populations of Senecio in areas of Mount Kenya.

Arriving:

August 29 - GAYLE VANDE KERCHOVE, University of Iowa, to study the ecology of snails that eat tropical lichens at BCI for eight weeks.

August 31 - Arriving, LIVINGSTON MARSHALL, Hampton Institute, as part of the Smithsonian's collaborative education program, to assist H. Lessios at the Naos Marine Laboratory. He will be at STRI until mid-December.

September 1 - Arriving, DANIEL SUMAN, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, to begin his year as a Smithsonian Postdoctoral Fellow at STRI. He will be studying the morphologies of plant charcoal particles, their analysis in sediment cores from Parita Bay and the implications concerning savanna formation and pre-Columbian agriculture in Central Panama.

Also arriving, GISELLE MORA, Universidad de Costa Rica on an Exxon Assistantship, to work with D. Hamill on Barro Colorado Island until November.

LIBRARY NEWS

The new air-conditioning system with the special dehumidifier component is at present being installed. If all goes well the library will be open on Monday, August 29.

New books:

-The Yanomami Indian Park. 1981.
-Mammalian Biology in South America. Michael Mares and Hugh Genoways (eds.), 1981.

New Books (cont.)

-The Ecology of Whales and Dolphins. D. Gaskin, 1982.
-Tropical Fruits. Jules Samson, 1980.
-Guidelines for Sampling Fish in Island Waters. FAO, 1980.

NOTES OF INTEREST

-During the month of May we reported in the NEWSLETTER about the die off of sea urchins of the species Diadema antillarum on the Caribbean side of Panama. The massive mortality of this species was first observed in Galeta during the month of January and in April a similar Diadema mortality was observed in San Blas. By June there were no more dying sea urchins in Panama, but Diadema die offs were progressively reported from Costa Rica, Gran Caiman, Jamaica and now Florida. Biologists speculate that the cause of the mortality affecting only this one species of sea urchins is a disease that has been moving with the current. STRI's H. LESSIOS will be going to Florida to collect diseased specimens, that will then be analyzed to determine the real cause of the Diadema mortality.

-For those of you who would like to practice your French, the July-August issue of ACTUEL carries an interesting (but different) article describing the work of researchers on Barro Colorado Island: "Ils trouvent l'avenir dans la jungle" by Pascal Dupont. Translation: "They find the future in the jungle".

-In NEOTROPICAL FAUNA AND ENVIRONMENT 18 (1983) WOLFGANG MIELKE describes two new species of copepods from sandy beaches on the Caribbean coast of Panama that he found during his stay at STRI. He named one of the species Psammopsyllus stri.

