

STRI newsletter

November 9, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 45

SEMINARS

Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, November 13, 11:30 a.m.
seminar speaker will be Karel Spitzer,
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

*Studies in Subarctic and Alpine
Peatmoors.*

Abstract:

Cold, acid, subalpine peat bogs in Central Europe represent early holocene relict ecosystems. They are habitat islands in the montane zone. Their characteristics are determined by the interaction of local climatic and edaphic conditions. Many animals, especially insects with a boreo-alpine and subarctic distribution survive in isolated disjunct populations in these peat bogs. Some of the best examples of the peatland landscape, the habitats, plants and insects will be discussed. Most of the Central European peat bogs are being preserved.

After a lunch break, Karel Spitzer, will give another seminar at 1:00 p.m.

*The Nam Cat Tien National Park
in Vietnam, a Proposed Biosphere
Reserve of a Lowland Tropical
Rainforest. Problems in Conserva-
tion.*

Abstract:

Nam Cat Tien is the last large fragment of a lowland seasonal tropical rainforest in southern Vietnam. The dominant forest type of the proposed reserve is an association of *Dipterocarpus* and *Lagerstroemia*. Some basic results of the entomological and conservation research carried out by Czechoslovak - Vietnamese expedition in 1989 will be discussed and examples of various typical habitats in the proposed reserve will be shown.

Next Week

Tuesday, November 20, noon seminar speakers will be John and Terese Hart, Wildlife Conservation International.

*Food Availability and Use of
Space in Okapi, a Rainforest Gi-
raffe of Zaire.*



In a joint effort to educate and inform administrative and maintenance personnel of the research carried out by STRI scientists, the Offices of Education and Personnel began a conference program in November of last year. As part of this program on the 2nd of this month, Mireya Correa, STRI botanist, took a group of approximately 20 employees on a tour to learn about the flora around the Tupper Center and visit the Herbarium. ••• En un esfuerzo por dar a conocer las actividades de nuestros investigadores a los empleados administrativos y de mantenimiento, las oficinas de Educación y Personal comenzaron un programa de presentaciones por investigadores del STRI desde noviembre 1989. Como parte del programa, este 2 de noviembre la profesora Mireya Correa, botánica de STRI, dirigió a un grupo de aproximadamente 20 empleados en una gira para conocer la flora del Centro Tupper y el Herbario. (Foto: C. Hansen)

Barro Colorado Island

Thursday, November 15, evening seminar speakers at BCI will be Terese and John Hart, Wildlife Conservation International.

*Forest Dynamics and Monodominance in the Ituri
Forest, Zaire.*

Abstract:

The Ituri Forest, itself greater than 60,000 square kilometers in area, is part of the larger northeastern forest block of Zaire. Over a landscape that is relatively homogenous in terms of topography and altitude there is a striking diversity of forest types, varying in species composition, richness and dominance. Most remarkable are the monodominant facies or stands, sometimes exceeding 100 km², of *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei* (Caesalpiniaceae) that co-occur with a variety of mixed forest types some of which are dominated, to a lesser extent, by other species of Caesalpiniaceae. Trees were remeasured after

eight years on plots where all individual stems greater than 10 cm dbh had been permanently tagged in 1982. There were 24 plots (total 1.5 ha) in each of the two forest types, monodominant *Gilbertiodendron* forest and mixed forest in which two Caesalpiniaceae species, *Brachystegia laurentii* and *Cynometra alexandri* were the primary canopy components. Growth rates and mortality rates were appreciably higher in the mixed forest. The differences in forest dynamics are put into the context of overall species composition and what we know about life history characteristics of individual tree species (seed/seedling survival and understory persistence).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 12 - Veteran's Day is a STRI Holiday.
- November 13 - Scientific Staff Meeting.

PEOPLE

New Honor ••• Nuevos Honores

Dr. Ira Rubinoff has been made honorary member of the Panamanian Academy of Medicine and Surgery ••• El Dr. Ira Rubinoff ha sido invitado a formar parte de la Academia Panameña de Medicina y Cirugía como miembro afiliado. Su investidura tendrá lugar el viernes 25 de enero de 1991 en el Salón de Profesores de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Panamá.

Arrivals

- Barbara Smith, Director, and Bonita Perry, Assistant Director for Research Services, SI Libraries, November 13 - 16, to meet STRI scientific and administrative staff.
- John and Terese Hart, Wildlife Conservation International, November 14 - 21, to visit STRI facilities and give seminars.
- Karen Cangialosi, Miami University, November 16 - 24, to locate possible study sites at BCI.

Departures

- November 15 - 25, Alan Smith, STRI Scientific Staff, to Washington, D.C. to attend meetings of the SI Research Policy Committee.
- November 14 - December 1, David Roubik, to Valparaiso, Chile to attend the National Entomology Meetings and confer with colleagues at Chilean universities.

On Leave

Vielka Vergel, November 15 - 19
Alejandro Caballero, November 16 - 23
Rosa Zambrano, November 13 - 23

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

From the Director's Office

The Office of the Director is requesting that six (6) reprints instead of five (5) be sent to the office for distribution.

From Accounting Department

Starting Tuesday, Nov. 13, 1990, all employees at the Tupper Center should report their time used as annual leave, compensatory or sick leave or over-time to Vielka Vergel. Mrs. Vergel has been designated as Time Keeper for this facility.

On Paper Recycling

Do not try to recycle glossy or coated paper, envelopes with windows, **colored paper**, newsprint or cardboard. Please remove all staples and paper clips before putting the paper in the recycling bin.

Donaciones para Isla Coiba

El personal de secretaría del Ministerio de Gobierno y Justicia agradece profundamente a los empleados de STRI que contribuyeron con artículos de higiene personal y ropa para los detenidos de la isla de Coiba. Estos elementos serán distribuidos en la isla penal los primeros días de diciembre. Si aún desea contribuir a esta noble causa puede hacerlo a través de Nereida Hernández en Tívoli, ext 210.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRI Publications

- Roubik, David W. 1990. Mate location and mate competition in male of stingless bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Meliponinae). *Entomol. Gener.* 15(2): 115 - 120.
- Roubik, David W. 1990. "Niche Preemption in Tropical Bee Communities: A Comparison of Neotropical and Malesian Faunas." In: *Natural History of Social Wasps and Bees in Equatorial Sumatra*, edited by Sakagami, Shoichi F., Ohgushi, Ryoh-ichi and Roubik, David W.: 245-258. (Sapporo: Hokkaido University Press.)

- Roubik, David W. and Boreham, Melvin M. 1990. "Learning to Live with Africanized Honeybees." *Interciencia* 15(3): 146-153.
- Southwick, E.E., D.W. Roubik, and J.M. Williams. 1990. Comparative energy balance in groups of Africanized and European honey bees: ecological implications. *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.* 97A(1): 1-7

Assistant Available

Steven W. Pauls is seeking a challenging position in the area of tropical environmental chemistry involving research or field work. Mr. Pauls will graduate in December 1990 with an M.S. in Physical/Analytical Chemistry from Indiana University. He has a B.S. in Chemistry and Physics from Bethel College. He has had extensive hands-on experience in x-ray photoelectron spec. (XPS), auger spec. (AES), temperature desorption spec. (TDS), scanning electron microscope (SEM), photoelectron spec. (PES), and both excimer and YAG lasers. Also well versed in the use of metal lathes. Outside interests include photography and snorkeling. (1600 B. Willis #160, Bloomington, IN 47404, Tel: (812) 333-7405).

Biological Technician Position at STRI

The Oil Spill Project of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) has an opening for a biological technician. The position is within the coral reef sub-project and the successful candidate must be a certified experienced SCUBA diver. A university degree in biology is required, and familiarity with Caribbean corals, other invertebrates, and algae is desirable. Working knowledge of microcomputers, including image analysis, database management, statistics, and word processing, also is desirable. The successful candidate must be prepared for extensive field work as well as laboratory work, including the use of a rock saw, preparing and developing x-rays and photographs, and other duties. Starting salary will depend on experience. Mail curriculum vitae with references to: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Personnel Office (OSP), Box 2072, Balboa, Republic of Panamá.

Nature Tourism News

PTY Tours, Inc. announces a Thanksgiving Tour to Chiriquí Highlands, from Thursday, November 22-Sunday, November 25. Activities include tours to coffee plantations, Cerro Punta, the outskirts of the Volcan Barú, and visit to the Guaymí Indian Reservation. Arrangements for trout fishing and bird watching can be made with advance reservations (\$15). Fishing gear can be provided. If interested call 69-2183.



Karel Spitzer, a distinguished entomologist working at the Entomological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, is visiting STRI as part of the short-term visitor program to work on comparative studies of tropical insects. Dr. Spitzer is giving a series of seminars on his research work in Vietnam, and his studies of European peatbogs, of which he is a recognized expert ••• Karel Spitzer, un distinguido entomólogo del Instituto de Entomología de la Academia Czechoslovaca de Ciencias, visita a STRI como parte del programa de visitantes de corto plazo, para trabajar en estudios comparativos de insectos tropicales. El Dr. Spitzer dictará una serie de conferencias sobre sus experiencias de investigación en Vietnam y sus estudios de turbales europeos, un área en la cual es un experto reconocido.

(Foto: C. Harsen)

Academic Positions Available

The Center for Neotropical Biological Diversity at the University of Kansas anticipates a position for a **Field Site Coordinator (FSC)** for a Neotropical Biodiversity Program in Amazonian Peru. This program involves integrated sampling (including collecting and preparation) of terrestrial vertebrates, selected groups of insects (principally ants and lepidopterans), and woody plants by U.S. and Latin American personnel. Applicants must have an advanced degree(s) in an appropriate field, research interests in systematic or field biology, demonstrated expertise with neotropical terrestrial vertebrates (preferred) or other appropriate groups of organisms, field experience in Latin America, experience coordinating teams of biologists in field studies (preferred), computer literacy (preferred), and proficiency in English and Spanish. The position will be effective for 3 years beginning 1 March 1991. Send letter describing qualifications, CV, copies of publications, and three letters of recommendation (all postmarked by 15 Nov. 1990) to: **Dr. William E. Duellman, Center for Neotropical Biological Diversity, Dyche Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2454.**

Phone (913) 864-3342 • Fax (913) 864-5335

STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

Ambiguous relations: kin, class, and conflict among Komachi pastoralists (D. Bradburd, 1990) DS269.K65B73 1990X STRI.

The Archaeology of human origins: papers (GL Isaac, 1989) GN741.I85 1989X STRI.

The Archeology of prehistoric coastlines (G. Bailey & J. Parkinson, eds., 1988) GN784.A73 1988X STRI.

Are Australian ecosystems different?: proceedings of a symposium held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, August, 1984 / edited by JR Dodson & M. Westoby QH540.A67 1985 STRI.

Biological invasions: a global perspective / edited by JA Drake & HA Mooney QH353.B56 1989X STRI.

Bird-song: the biology of vocal communication and expression in birds (WH Thorpe, 1961) QL698.5.T52 STRI.

Bryostephane Steerana: a collection of bryological papers presented to William Campbell Steere on the occasions of his 80th birthday / WR Buck, ed. QK533.B9613 1987 STRI.

Cell calcium and the control of membrane transport: Society of General Physiologists, 40th Annual Symposium / edited by LJ Mandel & DC Eaton; Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, 3-7 September, 1986 (Society of General Physiologist. Symposium (40th: 1986: Woods Hole, Mass.), 1987) QH507.S63 1986X STRI.

The Culture of sharptooth catfish, *Clarias farsinensis* in southern Africa / T. Hech, W. Uys and PJ Britz, eds. QL638.C6C85 1988 STRI.

Data processing in archaeology (JD Richards & NS Ryan, 1985) CC804.R53 1985X STRI.

Depth perception in frogs and toads: a study in neural computing (D. House, 1989) QP491.H66 1989X STRI.

Developmental biology: proceedings of a Director's Sponsor Fund-UCLA Symposium, held at Tamarron, Colorado, March 12-19, 1989 / editors, EH Davidson, JV Ruderman, and JW Posakony (Director's Sponsor Fund-UCLA Symposium (1989: Tamarron, Colo.), 1990) QH491.U23 1989X STRI.

A Field study of the behavior and social relations of howling monkeys (CR Carpenter, 1934) QL737.P9C3X 1934 STRI.

Forest dynamics: SILVI-STAR, a comprehensive monitoring system (H. Koop, 1989) QK938.F6K66 1989X STRI.

Heavy metal tolerance in plants: evolutionary aspects (AH Shaw, ed., 1990) QK753.H4H4 1990X STRI.

Palaeobotanical-palaeoecological studies of tropical high Andean peatbog sections (Cordillera Oriental, Colombia) (P. Kuhry, 1988) QE942.C7K45 1988X STRI.

Physiology and biochemistry of the domestic fowl, v5 (DJ Bell & BM Freeman, eds., 1984) QL698.B43 STRI.

Prehistory of the Americas (SJ Fiedel, 1987) E61.F52 1987X STRI.

Principal diseases of marine fish and shellfish, 2nd edition (CJ Sindermann, 1990) SH171.S53 1990X STRI.

Report / Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 8-11 March 1982 (Conference on the Human Environment in the South Pacific (1982: Rarotonga, Cook Islands), 1982) HC681.3.E5C74 1982 STRI.

Residuos de pesticidas en productos agropecuarios en Panamá (J. Espinosa G., 1988) TX571.P4E77 1988 STRI.

Review of the state of world fishery resources / by Marine Resources Service, Fishery Resources and Environment Division, Fisheries Department SH327.5.R45 1981 STRI.

Die Schmetterling Mitteleuropas, v.1 (W. Forster & TA Wohlfahrt, 1954) QL555.A1F6X STRI.

Stone tool use at Cerros: the ethnoarchaeological and use-wear evidence (SM Lewenstein, 1987) F1435.1.C43L49 1987X STRI.

Transformed cladistics, taxonomy, and evolution (NR Scott-Ram, 1990) QH83.S36 1990X STRI.

The Uses of style in archaeology (MW Conkey & CA Hastorf, eds., 1990) E59.P8U84 1990X STRI.

La Vegetación en algunas regiones de altura, Provincia de Jujuy, (Argentina), con vistas a establecer una reserva de *Vicugna vicugna* (Artiodactyla: Camelidae) (JA González et al., 1986) QL737.U54G64 1986 STRI.

