

STRI newsletter

October 18, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 42

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Oct 22, noon seminar speaker will be Roberto Ibañez, University of Connecticut.

Synchronized calling in Centrolenella granulosa and Smilisca sila (Amphibia, Anura)

Abstract

Males of a few anuran species call in bouts separated by relatively long periods of silence. This type of synchronized calling behavior was investigated in *Smilisca sila* and *Centrolenella granulosa* in Panama. Males of both species give only one call at a time, actively overlapping it with calls of their neighbors. However, the two species differ in the degree of note overlap. In *C. granulosa*, note overlap could affect mate attraction.

Habrà traducción simultánea.

Next Week

Tuesday, Oct 29, noon seminar speaker will be Ann Oliver, Duke University.

Sex Steroids as Regulators of Spawning Behavior in Hermaphroditic Serranus spp.

BCI SEMINAR

Thursday, Oct 24 at 7:45 pm, seminar speaker will be Gerhard Zotz, Univ. of Wurzburg.

Why I am on BCI

A late boat (9 pm) will be arranged. Please confirm with Vielka Liao in advance.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Robert Perkins, SI Office of Contracting and Property Management, Oct 21-25, to attend bid opening for renovation of buildings 401 and Pastor's House and for meeting on the STRI Research Vessel.

Departures

- David Roubik, STRI scientist, Oct 20-Dec 8, to conduct research on bees at the Brunei Rainforest Project.



Members of the Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo and staff from ANCON, INRENARE and STRI visited Barro Colorado on October 16 and were briefed by Nelida Gomez on research activities.

••• *Miembros de la Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo y miembros del personal de ANCON, INRENARE y el STRI visitaron Barro Colorado el 16 de octubre donde obtuvieron información sobre las actividades de investigación que se realizan en la Isla.*

(Foto: C.C. Hansen)

- Anthony Coates, STRI's deputy director, Oct 20-31 to San Diego to attend meetings of the Geological Society of America and to Washington D.C. to attend the STRI 2000 meetings and other official business at SI.
- Alan Smith, STRI scientist, Oct 20-30, on official business to the University of Miami and Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.
- Leonor Motta, Executive Officer, Oct 27-Nov 3 to Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. to attend STRI 2000 meetings.
- Ira Rubinoff, Oct 28-31, to Quito, Ecuador, to attend meetings of the Charles Darwin Research Foundation.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Regarding Mail

The APO post office has established that unit mail clerks pick-up and deliver mail each morning from 10 am-1 pm, and in the evenings from 3 pm to 5:30 pm. The Registry Section will operate from 7:30 am-12 noon and

1-3 pm Monday through Friday. Registered mail for local post offices will be delivered to the registry section for dispatch no later than 12 noon daily. STRI's Procurement Department requests that you deliver your mail to the pick up points in time for the department to meet the above schedule. Everardo Curney, Unit Mail Clerk, or alternate clerk, collects/delivers mail as follows:

Delivery/Pick Up	Hour	Site
Pick Up	8 am	Tivoli • Tupper
Delivery	10-11:30 am	Tivoli • Tupper
Delivery/Pick Up	11:45-12:15 pm	Naos Complex
Pick Up	2-2:30 pm	Tivoli • Tupper

Delivery to the APO for Express Mail will be at 3 pm. Packages and envelopes must be at Procurement no later than 2:30 pm.

Reminder: The APO address should be used only for shipping/receiving research equipment and/or supplies and official mail. Smithsonian postage paid, franked envelopes and labels should be used only for official business.

Hasta Luego

Best of luck to diligent Roberto Borrell who will be away for 5 months to attend college in Vermont to improve his English. The halls of Tivoli and Tupper and all his clients will miss him ••• *Le deseamos la mejor suerte al diligente Roberto Borrell, quien cursará estudios en la Universidad de Vermont durante 5 meses para mejorar su inglés. Los pasillos del Tivoli y Tupper, así como todos sus clientes lo extrañaremos.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mpala Ranch Research Center

STRI is collaborating with the National Zoo, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Air and Space Museum, Princeton University, the National Museums of Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Mpala Wildlife Foundation to establish a research center for ecological and behavioral research in East Africa—the Mpala Ranch Research Center.

Mpala Ranch is a 49,000 acre tract of dry acacia scrub woodland and savanna located in north-central Kenya just north of the Equator at an elevation of 5000 to 6000 feet. It has been offered as a research center by its owner, George Small, who is committed to conservation and environmental education in Kenya. It is home to most of the large mammals characteristic of this part of East Africa, including Cape buffalo, lion, cheetah, hippo, giraffe, zebra and several antelope species. Rhinos are absent, but can probably be re-introduced. The second largest elephant herd in Kenya uses the area. The Ranch

is located in the center of the Laikipia Plateau Ecosystem, with over 400,000 contiguous acres of savanna ecosystems, much of which is available for research.

In addition to diverse flora and fauna, Mpala supports a small cattle ranching operation. This will be retained, and used to carry out research on the interactions between cattle, native mammals and the plant community—one of the critical environmental management issues in East Africa.

STRI's Washington Office is heading a fundraising campaign to help develop this center. Anyone interested in more information please contact Alan Smith.

From Human Resources Office ••• *De la Oficina de Recursos Humanos*

Luis Carlos Lopez is a new employee who will begin working for STRI on Oct 20 as a Game Warden in Barro Colorado Nature Monument. Lopez has extensive experience as a game warden since he previously worked for the forestry guard on BCI. We want to welcome Luis Carlos and wish him the best of luck in his new position at STRI ••• *Damos la bienvenida a Luis Carlos López, empleado nuevo del STRI que asumirá la función de guardabosques en Barro Colorado a partir del 20 de octubre. López tiene una vasta experiencia como guardabosques, ya que trabajaba anteriormente para la Policía Forestal en Barro Colorado. Le deseamos la mejor de las suertes en su nueva posición.*

Lost ••• *Perdido*

Hector Guzman is missing a specimen of the rare branching coral *Pocillopora eydouxi*. If someone has seen it, please inform him ••• *Se ha extraviado un espécimen del coral Pocillopora eydouxi que se encontraba en la oficina de Héctor Guzmán. A cualquiera que lo haya visto, favor de comunicárselo.*

Next Sport Event ••• *Próximo Evento Deportivo*

Please take note that the next sport event in the Naos Causeway will be held on Dec 6 instead of Nov 22 ••• *Favor de anotar que el próximo evento deportivo en la calzada de Amador será el 6 de diciembre en vez del 22 de noviembre.*

Fiesta Pro-Fondos del Equipo de Softball del STRI

El viernes 18 de octubre habrá una fiesta en el Bohío de Naos para recoger fondos para comprar manillas, bates, bolas, etc. para el equipo de Softball. Habrá barbacoa, música, y juegos de volleyball. La colaboración es de \$10, que incluye el consumo. Para mayor información consulte a Consul Chamorro, Juan Carlos Roqueiro o Marco Díaz en Naos.

BCI Halloween Party ••• *Fiesta de Brujas en BCI*

There will be a BCI Halloween party on Friday, Nov 1st. All personnel is invited. Costumes and masks are highly

recommended. Contact Daniel Millan in BCI for more information ••• *El viernes 1ro de noviembre habrá una fiesta de brujas en Barro Colorado. Todo el personal está invitado. Se recomiendan disfraces y máscaras. Para mayor información, consulte a Daniel Millán en BCI.*

NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

by Gretchen Sotomayor

More digits in STRI's new accounting system will add up to changes in the monthly financial report.

The addition of more digits to codes used by STRI accountants for identifying funds comes with other changes introduced Oct. 1 in "Fundware," a new computer program used in maintaining financial records at STRI. Though most of the changes won't be noticeable outside of the accounting department, recipients of STRI's monthly financial report, such as department heads and staff scientists, will see more detailed descriptions of petty cash transactions and money spent on encumbrances, according to accounting officer Carlos Urbina.

The purchase of the new system, prompted by a decision to change accounting systems at the Smithsonian's main offices in Washington, D.C., will allow STRI's accounting system to maintain easy communications with the main office.

The new system in D.C., which is still being established, can use up to 22 digits in its fund-defining codes. For example, by glancing at a code, an accountant can tell what facility is receiving the funds and in what fiscal year. However, STRI's old computer system utilized only 10 digits.

"Our system would become obsolete," he said, adding that because of this gap in numbers, the two systems wouldn't be able to understand each other.

After evaluating many computer programs, STRI purchased a new system compatible with the main office's choice. New features, such as an increased capacity for storing financial records of previous years, will save time, Urbina said. For example, the old system, "P.C. Fund," could only store three years of financial



Rosa Zambrano, Accounting Specialist.

records. If a report spanning 10 financial years was needed, old records had to be reentered into the system.

The new program brings improvements to STRI's monthly financial reports with more detailed descriptions, as requested, of new monetary obligations and petty cash transactions. In the past, the reports listed vendor name and amount spent on encumbrances, but Urbina received requests for more information so departments and scientists could better track their spending. With the new system, both purchase order and requisition numbers will be listed as additional references.

"It will be very easy for scientists to verify if payments were made... against their account," he said.

Petty cash flow, which in the past listed only the name of the cashier and the amount spent, will be identified by the vendor's name and a brief description of the item. Use of the cashier's name will be eliminated.

STRI purchased the program from American Fundware Co., the same company that manufactured "P.C. Fund." In addition to other program benefits, STRI has been pleased with the company's quick response to problems, despite the distance between Panama and Colorado, where the company is based, according to Urbina.

Other employees working in the accounting department include Rosa Zambrano, who manages private funds; Luis Polanco, in charge of federal funds; Alicia Salas, manager of oil spill project funds and secretary Roxana Duran. Maria Lorena Ossa and Fernando Oglivie keep accounts payable in order and Hely Andrade manages payroll.

For Sale ••• *Se Vende*

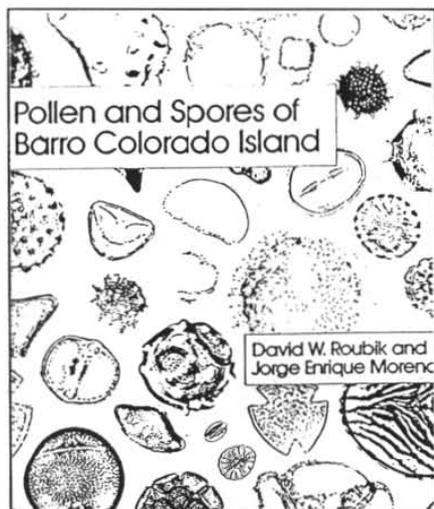
1990 Nissan Sunny, duty not paid, \$4,500. 2 yellow-headed parrots with papers, \$100 each. Call Henk Wolda at 68-0979. Also for sale is a 1985

Mazda 929 Limited, 4-dr sedan, excellent condition, original owner, all extras. Good price. Call Francisco Rivera at 24-7707.

**Reminder to all Tupper Center Personnel •••
Recorderis a todo el Personal del Centro Tupper**

In order to have a better control of maintenance jobs at Tupper Center work orders should be filled out to request a service. A box with blank work orders will be placed outside office #311 (Vielka Vergel). Please do not call or ask Luis Castillo for this service unless it is a real emergency. Your cooperation will be appreciated •••
Para tener un mejor control del mantenimiento del Centro Tupper es imperativo que se llenen las órdenes de trabajo para estos servicios. Se colocará, en la parte exterior de la oficina #311 (Vielka Vergel) una caja con las órdenes en blanco. Se agradecerá no llamar directamente al Sr. Luis Castillo para estos servicios a menos que sea una emergencia. Su cooperación será agradecida.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS



Guzmán, Héctor M., Jackson, Jeremy B.C. and Weil, Ernesto. 1991. "Short-term Ecological Consequences of a Major Oil Spill on Panamanian Subtidal Reef Corals." *Coral Reefs* 10: 1-12.

Roubik, David W. and Moreno P., Jorge Enrique. 1991. *Pollen and Spores of Barro Colorado Island*. Missouri Botanical Gardens: Monographs in Systematic Botany.

Weldon, Paul J., Sampson, H. Wayne, Wong, Luis and Lloyd, Helen A. 1991. "Histology and biochemistry of the Scent Glands of the Yellow-bellied Sea Snake (*Pelamis platurus* Hydrophiidae).

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Senior Research Ecologist

The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory in Las Vegas (EMSL-LV) is seeking for a Senior Research Ecologist. The incumbent will be responsible for conducting research and providing scientific leadership in the areas of biodiversity, landscape ecology, and large-scale environmental monitoring, especially in terrestrial systems. Qualifications include an advanced degree in a life science (e.g. ecology, biology, etc.) and at least seven years experience in ecological research. Significant publications in national and international journals, and a proven record of multidisciplinary team work and leadership for large scale environmental research and/or monitoring projects, will be given serious consideration. The annual salary would be between \$73,972 and \$108,300 depending on the qualifications. To apply, send a completed SF-171, *Application for Federal Employment* to the US Environmental Protection Agency, Executive Resources and Special Programs Division, Att. Ms. Chaunta A. Gladney, Room M3910, PM-224, 401 M Street, SW, Washington D.C. 20460. Tel.(202)260-3328. For more information on the technical aspects of the position, please contact Dr. Margaret Rostker, Acting Deputy Laboratory Director, Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, Las Vegas at (702)798-2522 or FTS 545-2522.

PERSONAL IMAGE SEMINAR

Realmente Tú Image Consulting

Look good and feel good. People everywhere are realizing the importance of reshaping their image. Let *Realmente Tú* bring out the best in you and create the personal image best suited for you and your lifestyle. Introductory seminar on Oct 31 at the Tupper Center Exhibit Hall by Soraya Sheppard. Please R.S.V.P. to Gloria Zelaya, Tivoli, ext 203.



Qué edad me parece que tienes? Qué, soy arqueólogo?