

STRI newsletter

August 28, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 36

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, September 1, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Rowan, Australian Institute of Marine Science.

The molecular genetics of symbiotic algae on reefs-biogeography and phylogeny

Abstract

Phototrophic dinoflagellates occur as endosymbionts (zooxanthellae) in many species of marine invertebrates throughout the tropics. We are applying molecular genetic techniques to the systematics of these algae; our goal is to gain a better understanding of how zooxanthellae and their hosts interact at the population level. Biogeographical studies are an important part of this research, whereby information on the evolution of these symbioses can be obtained by using distance as a proxy for time. A comparison of zooxanthellae collected in the Caribbean and the Pacific reveals what may be a very old disjunction in the Atlantic flora, and it provides a starting point for building hypotheses on the evolutionary ecology of zooxanthellae symbioses.

El Espejo Enterrado Note change

Thursday, September 3, will be the noon presentation of video *La Edad de Oro* in celebration of the 500 years of the discovery of America. This is the third video in the series "El Espejo Enterrado" (The Buried Mirror), narrated by Carlos Fuentes.

Next Week

Tuesday, September 8, noon seminar speaker will be Philip DeVries, University of Texas.

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General Editor: Argelis Román
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Contributor: Gretchen Sotomayor



Argelis Román, Office of Education, will be leaving us this week to join the Smithsonian MAB Program in Washington D.C., as training coordinator. Since 1979 Argelis has worked at STRI in various positions. Her co-workers and friends wish her every success in her new position and hope she will stay in touch and organize future MAB courses in Panama ••• Argelis Román de la Oficina de Educación, dejará STRI esta semana, para asumir la posición de coordinadora de entrenamiento en el Programa MAB del Smithsonian en Washington D.C. Argelis ha trabajado en STRI en varias posiciones desde 1979. Sus compañeros de trabajo y amigos le deseamos mucho éxito en su nueva posición y esperamos que no se pierda y que en el futuro, organice cursos del Programa MAB en Panamá.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Renewal of Scientific Staff Evening Seminars

The first scientific staff evening seminar to take place this year will be given by Mary Jane West-Eberhard on Thursday, Sep 17, at 5:30 pm.

A Darwinian cure for the under-development of evolutionary biology or how Charlie Dee discovered the secrets of life

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Enrique Moreno, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sep 1, 92 to Sep 2, 94, to work as research assistant with Paul Colinvaux.
- John Loquvam, Univ. of Alaska, Sep 1-Jan 1, 93, to work on chemical ecology of resins produced by *Dalechampia* (Euphorbiace) in Gamboa.
- Kyle Harms, Princeton Univ., Sep 1-Dec 20, to study seedling dynamics as potential mechanisms of population regulation of selected tropical tree species on BCI.
- Jose Luis Andrade, Univ. of California at Los Angeles, Sep 1-Aug 31, to work with Park Nobel on the hydraulic properties of epiphytes on BCI.

- Phillip DeVries, Univ. of Texas, Sep 1-Oct 15, to present seminar and work on the ecology & evolution of caterpillar-ant symbiosis in Gamboa.
- Howard Choat and Allison Green, James Cook Univ., Australia, Sep 3-13, to visit R. Robertson and STRI facilities.

Departures

- Argelis Roman, information specialist, Sep 1 to Washington D.C. to take up a new position at the Man and the Biosphere Program at SI.
- Alan Smith, staff scientist, Sep 2-13, on official business to Princeton and Washington, DC where he will be having meetings regarding the Mpala Ranch research station and the SI Research Policy Committee.
- Eldredge Bermingham, staff scientist, Aug 29-Sep. 12, with family to Denver and Savannah on OTRAT.
- Jeremy Jackson, staff scientist, Sep 4-16, to Denmark at the invitation of the Danish Academy of Sciences to present a paper at Biodiversity in a Changing World Symposium.

New Babies

Congratulations to Ana Lorena and Edwin Cabrera on the birth of their daughter, Anagrace, born before dawn, on August 26, weighing 8lb. Also congratulations to Yagitka and Roberto Ibañez on the birth of their new son, Nikolai Andres, born August 26, weighing 7lb. 4ozs.

From the STRI Newsletter Editor

I have been privileged now for several years to act as principal editor for the STRI Newsletter, beginning in August 1986 when Georgina de Alba went on leave for more than a year. Back then the STRI Education Office was using a daisy-wheel printer, 8.5 x 14 paper, and all it took was Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

We evolved slowly to using a laser quality printer and in late 1989/early 1990 to desktop publishing and a new look. This last due to experimentation and creative ideas from Maria Luz Calderon.

With faithful contributors and constructive critics such as Neal Smith, we went through such growing pains as deciding what type and size to use, what format, etc. And hurray for screened-print photographs, which has turned the tables around so that people now really like to have their photos published (except for the aerobics class).

Through the continued collaboration of the STRI Photo Lab, which allows us to have a complete coverage of events at STRI, we can publish two to three photos per week. All of this has changed the newsletter to what it is today: a 4-page, 3-day, team effort of which I feel rather proud.

I would like to say goodbye and many thanks not only to the rest of the newsletter staff—Marissa Crespo

Maria Luz Calderon, Georgina de Alba, Gretchen Sotomayor, and "emergency editors" Annette Aiello and Dolores Piperno—but also to all the newsletter contributors, a few of which I am sure I am leaving out: Gloria Maggiori: arrivals/departures
Ana Maria Ford: seminars and Tupper events
Maria Morello: housing
Audrey Smith: STRI meetings
Gloria Zelaya: congresses/symposia
Maritza Perurena: birthdays
Carmen Sucre: personnel page
Hely Andrade/Vielka Vergel/Daniel Millan: vacations
Mercedes Arroyo: procurement news
Elena Lombardo: external affairs news
Vielka Chang: library news
Angel Aguirre: new books
Alejandro Arze, Pablo Amaris, Alejandro Hernandez: security news
Fernando Pascal, Edmundo Rodriguez: construction news
Nelida Gomez/Oris Acevedo: BCI news
Ursula Schober: Naos news
Raineldo Urriola: Tupper news
And article contributors such as Richard Cooke, Nicholas Smythe, and the rest of the scientific staff.

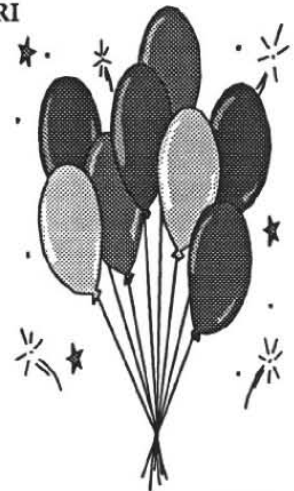
I will miss you all, but please come and visit me at the Smithsonian Institution's Man and the Biosphere Program in the International Center.

Congratulations

Eugene W. Shupp was accepted for a position at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Contrary to rumors the position is as an Assistant Professor, not as pizza chef. All of his friends are invited to drop by.

September Birthdays at STRI

Eldredge Bermingham	2
Alejandro Caballero	4
Ricardo Beteta	5
Jaime Sierra	5
Ruben Lopez	7
Virgilio Sanchez	9
Carlos Tejada	9
Nicolas Sugasti	10
Luis Turner	14
William Eberhard	15
Paul Colinvaux	22
Maria Luz Calderon	25
Lastenio Guzman	28
Stanley Rand	29
Mirna Fernandez	30
Jorge Ventocilla	30



STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Ahumada, Jorge A. 1992. "Grooming Behavior of Spider Monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*) on Barro Colorado Island." *International Journal of Primatology* 13(1): 33-49.
- Durán L., Ovidio and Moreno H., Víctor. 1991. "Determinación del Grado de Heterocigosidad Genética de las Abejas Africanizadas: Hymenoptera: Apidae en la República de Panamá. Thesis, Panamá: Universidad de Panamá.
- Motta, Jorge. 1992. "Centro de Investigaciones y Conferencias Earl Silas Tupper." *Revista Médica de Panamá* 17(2): 150-151.
- Duke, Norman and Pinzón M., Zuleika S. 1992. "Aging *Rhizophora* Seedlings from Leaf Scar Nodes: A Technique for Studying Recruitment and Growth in Mangrove Forests." *Biotropica* 24(2a): 173-186.
- Salazar Allen, Noris. 1992. "Resumen." In: *III Simposio Latinoamericano de Briología: Briología en el Neotrópico*. Instituto de Biología UNAM and Sociedad Latinoamericana de Briología.
- West Eberhard, Mary Jane. 1992. "Behavior and Evolution." In: *Molds, Molecules, and Metazoa: Growing Points in Evolutionary Biology*: 57-75, edited by P.R. Grand and H.S. Horn. Princeton, Princeton University Press.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sep 7 Celebration of Labor Day, a STRI holiday
- Sep 8 Administrative Meeting
- Sep 15 Scientific Staff Meeting
- Sep 18 Deadline for proposals to SI Women's Committee in STRI Director's Office
- Sep 25 Deadline for receipt of Scholarly Studies proposals at STRI Director's Office.

THINGS YOU SHOULD**From the Director's Office**

The STRI Administrative Meeting has



On Saturday, August 22, Norman Duke, Mangrove Biologist (left) and John Christy, Assistant Director for Marine Research (right) accompanied participants from the Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean to Galeta and nearby areas, and described research efforts underway. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

been changed from September 1 to Tuesday, September 8. The Scientific Staff Meeting will be held on September 15.

From the STRI Library

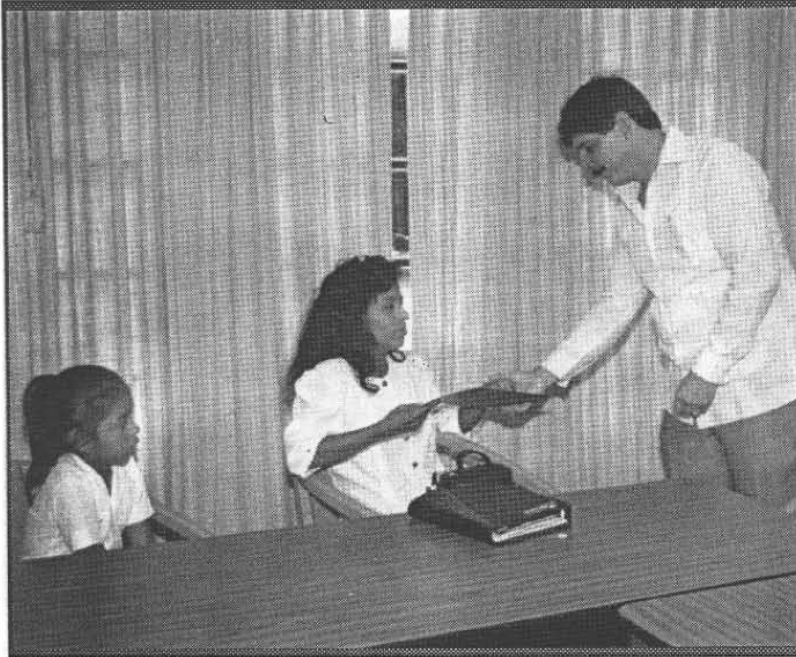
The STRI Library will close on Saturday, September 5, in celebration of US Labor Day.

Nueva Tienda Ecológica Educativa

El pasado viernes 14 de agosto se inauguró la primera tienda ecológica, educativa y artesanal en el Centro de Visitantes del Parque Natural Metropolitano.

El Dr. Ira Rubinoff presidió el corte de cinta protocolar. Con capital semilla del Instituto Smithsonian y bajo la coordinación y administración de la Socióloga Lic. María Bernal, esta tienda pretende funcionar en armonía con las diferentes actividades de educación ambiental que adelanta el Parque. Libros sobre ambiente, flora y fauna de interés general y artesanías completan el tema ecológico que tanto nos debe interesar a los que habitamos en esta ciudad. El horario de esta tienda es de martes a viernes de 9 am a 1 pm y los sábados y domingos de 1 a 4 pm.

El Parque Natural Metropolitano se encuentra abierto al público y ofrece charlas y giras por sus senderos naturales, dirigidas por el personal especializado de la Unidad de Educación Ambiental.



En nombre del Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales, Alejandro Hernández entregó a Veridiana Pinto, esposa del policía forestal Marcelino Castillo quién murió en cumplimiento de su deber, una resolución de duelo y reconocimiento por sus labores, el pasado miércoles 19 de agosto en el Salón de Reuniones del Centro Tupper. Además de la resolución, también se le entregó una cuenta de ahorros, producto de donaciones del personal de STRI.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

POSICIONES ABIERTAS

Título del puesto: Consultor en Recursos Culturales

Buli: 17.17. Duración: Seis meses. Fecha de Inicio: Octubre de 1992 a marzo de 1993. Idioma: Español. Sede de Trabajo: Ciudad de Guatemala con viajes frecuentes a los países centroamericanos.

Calificaciones: Arquitecto, historiador, antropólogo o arqueólogo, con estudios de postgrado en evaluación y conservación del patrimonio

cultural y por lo menos cinco años de experiencia en el tema, de preferencia con conocimiento de las culturas vernáculas, indígenas y caribeñas.

Título del puesto: Consultor de Recursos Naturales

Buli: 17.14. Duración: Seis meses. Fecha de Inicio: Octubre de 1992 a marzo de 1993. Idioma: Español. Sede de Trabajo: Ciudad de Guatemala con viajes frecuentes a los países centroamericanos.

Calificaciones: Graduado en Geografía, Ingeniería, Ciencias Naturales, Agronomía, con estudios de postgrado en Recursos Naturales y un mínimo de cinco años de preferencia en la región centroamericana y experiencia en sistemas de Información Georeferenciada.

Título del puesto: Consultor en Planificación Urbana y Regional

Buli: 17.13. Duración: Seis meses. Fecha de Inicio: Octubre de 1992 a marzo de 1993. Idioma: Español. Sede de Trabajo: Ciudad de Guatemala con viajes frecuentes a los países centroamericanos.

Calificaciones: Geógrafo, Arquitecto, Ingeniero Civil o profesional de área afines, con estudios a nivel de maestría en planificación del uso de la tierra y ordenamiento del crecimiento urbano; con por lo menos cinco años de experiencia en la preparación de planes urbanos y solución de problemas ambientales y experiencia en Sistemas de Información Georeferenciada.

