

STRI newsletter

November 20, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 49

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Dec 1, Noon seminar speaker will be Mamoru Matsuki, University of Alaska.

Chemical defenses of Alaskan willows (Salix).

Abstract

Willows (*Salix*) have been known for the chemical properties of their leaves since long before the modern interest in the chemical defenses of plants. The drug aspirin is chemically related to the salicylic acid of willow leaves and to salicin the bitter extract of willow bark used in herbal medicine. Yet willows are an important food to both vertebrate and invertebrate animals in Alaska. Arguments about the carrying capacity of the old Bering land bridge depend on whether the standing crop of willow bushes was large enough to support mammoth populations. Historic Inuit populations have relied on willow leaves for supplies of vitamin C. Optimal defense theory predicts that chemical defenses should be strongest when organisms are stressed. The seminar describes a test of this hypothesis by comparing chemical defenses of ten species of willows supplied with different concentrations of the limiting nutrient nitrogen, when the expected correlation between nitrogen and defense was not found. The effects of willow chemical defenses on the growth of six species of phytophagous insects was also measured.

BAMBI

On Wednesday Nov 25, at 7:45pm, the speaker will be Gregory Gilbert.

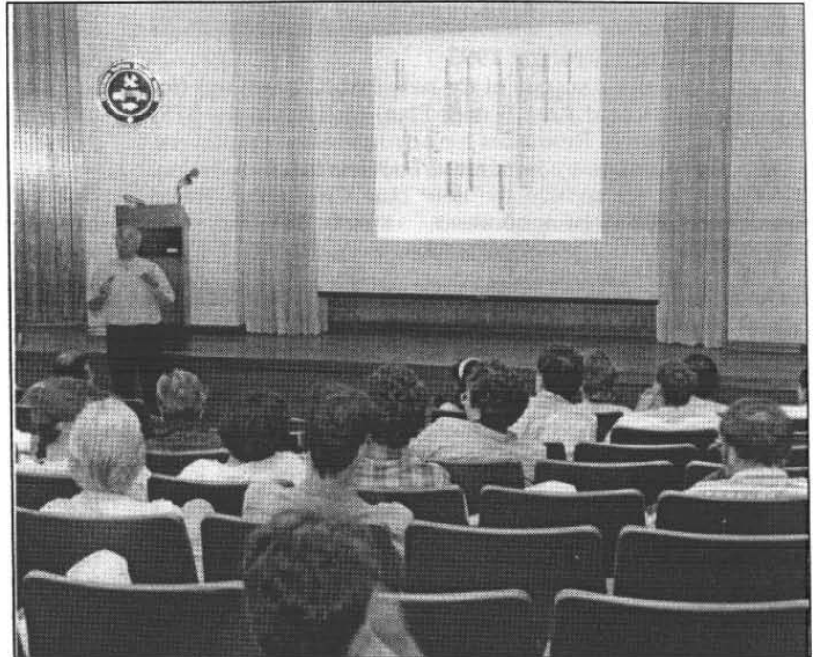
Spatial Distribution of a Canker Disease of Lauraceae on BCI

For transportation arrangements call BCI.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Olga Linares, staff scientist, Nov 27.
- Jianguo Liu, Harvard Institute for International Development, Nov 27-Dec 5, to visit STRI and consult with colleagues of CTFS.
- Fernando Cornejo, short-term visitor, Nov 20-Apr 30, to collaborate with Joseph Wright.



During his evening seminar on Tuesday, Nov 17, Tony Coates presented findings, by the Panama Paleontology Project, that outlined the geological events that lead to the rise and closing of the Isthmus ••• Durante su seminario, en la tarde del martes 17 de noviembre, Tony Coates presentó hallazgos del Proyecto de Paleontología Panamá, que describen los eventos geológicos que llevaron al surgimiento y cierre del Istmo.

(Foto: M.A.Guerra)

Departures

- Stanley Heckadon, research associate, Nov 19-22, to Argentina, as keynote speaker at the Annual Conference of the World Wildlife Fund.
- Jorge Ventocilla, Office of Education, Nov 21-Dec 1, to Congreso Iberoamericano de Educación Ambiental in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Rosemary Muchimuti, Nov 21, returns to Nairobi, Kenya.
- Laurel Collins, Nov 24, to join Tony Coates and Jeremy Jackson from Panama Paleontology Project on research trip to Costa Rica and Nicaragua.
- Ira Rubinoff, director, Nov 27-Dec 13, on official visit to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan to meet forestry agencies concerning collaboration with the Center for Tropical Forestry Science.

Congratulations

To Angel Aguirre, STRI Library, who received an Special Act Award from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries for his work with the Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON) in the search for Panamanian references on the Biological Inventory of the Panama Canal Watershed.

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Thursday, November 26, is Thanksgiving Day and STRI Holiday ••• *El jueves 26 de noviembre, se celebra el día de Acción de Gracias y es un día libre en STRI.*

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

PALIC Brochures for 1993

There is a limited supply of the new PALIC brochures (for the Panama Canal Area Benefit Plan) for 1993 in the STRI Office of Human Resources for any interested employees. Also, there are some comparative booklets for consultation. As soon as we receive the new blue Cross/Blue Shield brochures, it will be announced.

Thrift Savings Plan

Open Season dates: Nov 15-Jan 31. The TSP Open Season is your chance to start or change your contributions to your TSP account. During the Open Season you can also change the way your future payroll contributions are invested in the three TSP funds. Necessary forms available in the Office of Human Resources at Tivoli.

Barro Colorado Transportation Changes

Cambios en Horario de Transporte a BCI

Effective Fri, Nov 20, the BCI boat schedule from Mon-Fri will change. The evening boat will leave Gamboa at 5:55pm and arrive at BCI at 6:25pm. Saca will also change their Mon-Fri late night bus schedule with a bus from Panama to Gamboa at 12:15pm ••• *A partir del viernes 20 de noviembre, el horario de la lancha a Barro Colorado de lunes a viernes cambiará, saliendo de Gamboa a las 5:55pm, llegando a BCI a las 6:25pm. Por otro lado, el bus de SACA de la noche que viaja de Panamá a Gamboa también cambia su horario para salir de Panamá a las 12:15.*

From Procurement

We are looking for a box, addressed to David Zeh, with valuable contents for his research. The package is a brown cardboard box, approximately 2½x1x1½ feet, sealed with wide, brown packing tape, with a white envelope addressed to David Zeh taped to the outside. The box may still have a certified label P693-708-913. Please search in your labs for this box and contact Procurement regarding your findings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SI Fellowship Applications 1993-94

Smithsonian Ten-Week, Predoctoral, Postdoctoral and Senior Postdoctoral fellowships are available to support research at STRI. Deadline for submitting applications is January 15, 1993. Applications for 1993-1994 fellowships are now available in the Office of Education.

At Tupper Center

Mon, Nov 23 Christmas Committee meeting, 1-3 pm, Small Meeting Room.
Tue, Nov 24 Marine Issues meeting, 10:30-12 noon, Large Meeting Room.
Wed, Nov 25 Tupper Committee meeting, 9-10 am, Small Meeting Room.

GRANTS

Government of Norway

STRI has just been awarded a grant by the Government of Norway, through the United Nations Environmental Program, for our canopy research project.

Scholarly Studies

In September, SI awarded fourteen Scholarly Studies grants to scholars of the Smithsonian Institution staff, two of them to STRI scientists:

- Nancy Knowlton, for the project *Patterns of Divergence in Transisthmian Snapping Shrimp*.
- S. Joseph Wright to support work on *The Phenology and Ecophysiology of Tropical Forest Trees*.

National Science Foundation

A grant to support a study of *Declining Amphibian Populations in Lower Central America: Evaluation of the Phenomenon and its Possible Causes*, was awarded to Jay M. Savage at the University of Miami for a two year period by the National Science Foundation, beginning in Jan 1993. Funding for the project is being provided by the NSF (\$195,000) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (\$115,000). Maureen A. Donnelly, University of Miami, will serve as the project director and will coordinate the field work, data collection, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. Savage and Donnelly will be working closely with field collaborators Roberto Ibañez (Panama) and Federico Bolaños (Costa Rica). The principal investigator, the project director, and the field collaborators are part of the Lower Central American Working Group of the Declining Amphibian Task Force that also includes Martha Crump, George Gorman, J. Alan Pounds, A. Stanley Rand, and David B. Wake.

National Geographic

Gregory Adler received a National Geographic Research Grant to continue his project at STRI: *An Experimental Analysis of Population Regulation in a Tropical Rodent*.

GRANT AVAILABLE

Science in Developing Countries Program

The National Science Foundation, specifically the Science in Developing Countries Program (SDC) makes small grants (\$20,000 or less) that are intended to advance international exchange of scientific knowledge and contribute to the scientific infrastructure of developing countries.

Grants are made to U.S. institutions, but projects often involve activity at a foreign site. When appropriate, project budgets may include partial payment of support costs of counterpart scientists and engineers from the developing country. Individuals and institutions from

an eligible developing country or countries should participate in both planning and implementation of project activities.

The Foundation welcomes proposals on behalf of all qualified scientists and engineers and strongly encourages women and minorities to compete fully in any of the research and research-related programs.

The following categories of awards are made to U.S. institutions that sponsor SDC projects: Research participation grants • Conference grants • Dissertation improvement grants.

Under the SDC program, NSF will consider proposals from universities or colleges; nonprofit, nonacademic research institutions; and private for-profit organizations. All prospective principal investigators (PI's) must be professionally qualified through training and work experience and be employed by a U.S. institution. Each proposal must identify a host-country counterpart scientist or engineer and a counterpart institution. Copies of relevant correspondence from the intended counterpart scientist should be incorporated into the proposal. Counterpart institutions may be local, regional, national, or international in character. Projects may have multiple sites and may involve more than one foreign institution. Budgets may include \$200 for administrative costs in lieu of indirect costs.

Target dates for receipt of proposals are Sep 1st and Mar 1st, however, proposals may be submitted anytime. Proposals (10 copies) should be submitted to: Central Processing Section, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550. For more information contact Office of Education.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Baur, Bernhard, Dietz, Karl-Josef and Winter, Klaus. 1992. "Regulatory Protein Phosphorylation of Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxylase in the Facultative Crassulacean-Acid-Metabolism Plant." *European Journal of Biochemistry* 209: 95-101.
- Budd, Ann F. and Coates, Anthony G. 1992. "Nonprogressive Evolution in a Calde of Cretaceous *Montastrea*-like Corals." *Paleobiology* 18(4): 425-446.
- Forget, Pierre-Michel. 1992. "Seed Removal and Seed Fate in *Gustavia superba* (Lecythydaceae)." *Biotropica* 24(3): 408-414.
- Winter, Klaus, Zotz, Gerhard, Baur, Bernhard and Dietz, Karl-Josef. 1992. "Light and Dark CO₂ Fixation in *Clusia uvitana* and the Effects of Plant Water Status and CO₂ Availability." *Oecologia* 91: 47-51.

OPORTUNIDAD DE TRABAJO

Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)

CATIE requiere llenar la posición de Líder del Proyecto de Diseminación del Cultivo de Árboles de Uso Múltiple, Madeleña-3. El candidato debe poseer formación académica con doctorado en Ciencias Forestales, amplia

experiencia en silvicultura, en administración de proyectos de investigación o desarrollo forestal y habilidad para trabajar en equipos multidisciplinarios. Debe estar capacitado para preparar información científica y técnica para ser publicada y tener dominio del inglés y el español. Deberá residir en Turrialba y poder viajar con frecuencia dentro de la región centroamericana. Fecha límite para solicitudes: 30 de noviembre de 1992. Dirección: Unidad de Recursos Humanos, Ref.: 3-1192-38, 7170 CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica. Fax: (506) 56-1533 ó 56-6188.

STRI Christmas Party

Fiesta de Navidad de STRI

Plans for the STRI Christmas party are already underway. Music, dancing, food, refreshments, and many surprises. But best of all, this will be an opportunity for all to get together in an event bringing together the STRI community. The party will be sponsored by STRI for staff, visitors, fellows, contract employees and volunteers. Each may bring a spouse or guest (\$5.00 fee), or dependents (\$2.00 under 12 years old, \$5.00 each over 12 years old).



Date: Friday, December 18th. Time: 4pm.
Place: Tupper Center Exhibit Hall.

For additional information see: Vielka Liao at BCI, Pat Rand in Gamboa, Yira Ventocilla and Oscar Jimenez in Naos, Celideth De León at Tivoli and Maria Morello at the Tupper Center. See you there!

•••

La Fiesta de Navidad del STRI ya se está organizando. Tendremos músicaailable, comida, refrescos, y muchas sorpresas. Lo más importante, tendremos la oportunidad de convivir y juntos celebrar el inicio de las fiestas navideñas. La fiesta será patrocinada en su totalidad por el STRI para el personal, visitantes, becarios, contratistas y voluntarios. Todos tienen derecho a invitar a una persona y podrán traer a sus hijos, pagando \$5.00 por el invitado y \$2.00 por cada hijo menor de 12 años y \$5.00 para los mayores de 12 años.

Día: viernes 18 de diciembre. Hora: 4pm.
Lugar: Salón de Exhibiciones del Centro Tupper.

Para mayor información, favor de comunicarse con Vielka Liao en BCI, Pat Rand en Gamboa, Yira Ventocilla y Oscar Jiménez en Naos, Celideth De León en Tivoli en Maria Morello en el Centro Tupper. ¡Nos Vemos!

Last Minute News ••• Al Cierre

There will be no electricity at the Tupper Center on Saturday November 28 ••• No habrá electricidad en el Centro Tupper el sábado 28 de noviembre.

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

A thousand words will not leave
so deep an impression as a single deed.
—Anonymous

Trails...

The day was beautiful, clear and calm. A cloudless blue sky accentuated the long white vapor trail from a jet airplane that could no longer be seen.

Like the airplane, all of us leave our own trails that can bother or bless, infect or inspire. Every person has the power to make others happy. As the old one-liner goes, one does it simply by entering a room; another, by leaving the room.

There are friends who leave trails of enthusiasm. Hours after a telephone call from them you still feel great.

Others leave a trail of optimism. After a few minutes talking to them, you feel better. They always make your day.

One friend may enrich our days by always leaving a trail of kindness. A cheerful smile is his trademark.

Some people leave trails of gloom; others trails of joy. Some leave trails of hate and bitterness; others, trails of love and harmony.

Some leave trails of selfishness and unconcern; others, trails of generosity and thoughtfulness.

Some leave trails of cynicism and pessimism; others, trails of faith. Some leave trails of criticism and resignation; others, trails of gratitude and hope.

What kind of trails are you leaving in 1992?

Sense of humor

She was one of those fussy women who sometimes come into a restaurant. "Now mind you," she said, "I want my egg fried exactly 1 1/2 minutes. The white part should be done real nice but I don't want the yolk to get too hard. About half a pinch of salt... no more, no less. A sniff of pepper. Oh, yes, make sure the frying pan isn't too greasy. And I like my eggs straight from the country." "One thing, lady," said the waitress ever so sweetly. "The hen's name is Sarah. Is that all right?"

Mil palabras no dejan tanta huella
como una buena obra.
Anónimo—

Huellas..

El día era bello, claro y en calma. Un cielo azul sin nubes acentuaba la larga huella de vapor blanco del avión a chorro que ya no se veía.

Al igual que el avión, todos nosotros dejamos nuestras propias huellas que pueden incomodar o bendecir, contaminar o inspirar. Cada persona tiene el poder de hacer feliz a otros. Como dice el viejo dicho, algunos simplemente lo hacen cuando entran a una habitación; otros, cuando salen.

Hay amigos que dejan huellas de entusiasmo. Horas después de haber hablado con ellos por teléfono, aún se siente uno bien.

Otros dejan una huella de optimismo. Después de haber hablado con ellos unos cuantos minutos, se siente uno mejor. Ellos siempre hacen que el día se vuelva un buen día.

Otro amigo enriquece nuestros días dejando siempre una huella de bondad. Una alegre sonrisa es su señal distintiva.

Algunas personas dejan huellas de tristeza; otras dejan huellas de alegría. Algunos dejan huellas de odio y amargura; otros, de amor y armonía.

Algunos dejan huellas de egoísmo e indiferencia; otros, huellas de generosidad e interés.

Algunos dejan huellas de cinismo y pesimismo; otros, huellas de fe. Algunos dejan huellas de críticas y resignación; otros, huellas de gratitud y esperanza.

¿Qué clase de huellas estás dejando en 1992?

Sentido del Humor

Esta era una de esas mujeres melindrosas que a veces van a los restaurantes. "Escúcheme bien," decía, "quiero mi huevo frito por 1 minuto y medio exactamente. La clara debe quedar bien frita, pero la yema no demasiado dura. Debe ponerle media pizca de sal... ni un grano más ni un grano menos. Y una pizquita de pimienta. Ah, y también asegúrese de que la sartén no tenga demasiada grasa. Y además me gustan los huevos frescos, directamente del campo." "Disculpe, señora," dijo la mesera dulcemente. "La gallina se llama Sara. ¿Le parece bien?"