

# STRI newsletter

February 26, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 9

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Mar 2, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Pearcy, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis.

*Photosynthetic light responses of tropical forest understory plants.*

In the deeply shaded understories of tropical forests the growth and reproduction of plants is limited by light. Understory plants accordingly are expected to make efficient use of the fleeting illumination of sunflecks. Photosynthetic responses in all plants are induced by prior exposure to light. Professor Pearcy has investigated the way in which photosynthesis in understory plants can be induced without prolonged irradiance, together with such other adaptations as high electron transport capacity, and stomatal opening at low photon flux density.

## Next Week

Next week seminar speaker will be Christian Korner, University of Basel.

*Experiments with artificial tropical plant communities under elevated CO<sub>2</sub>.*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Peter Glynn, Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, Mar 1-19, to work on the effects of El Niño on tropical eastern Pacific coral reefs.
- Frank Greenwell, NMNH, Feb 28, to work on evolution in biogeography of terrestrial vertebrates on Bocas del Toro.
- Melvin Tyree, Univ of Vermont, Mar 1-22, to continue research in the evolution and structure of terrestrial ecosystems on BCI.
- Marielos Peña, Feb 27-May 27, to work with Robin Foster on Forest Dynamics Project.
- Robert Pearcy, Univ. of California, Davis, at the invitation of STRI, to visit the facilities, consult with the staff and present seminar.
- Hal Mooney, Stanford Univ, Mar 2-10, to visit STRI.



Felicitaciones al equipo de STRI, campeones de la Liga de Basketball de la División de Dragados al vencer al equipo de la comunidad con la anotación de 53 a 47 puntos, el 18 de febrero. Ricardo Racines ganó el trofeo de mejor anotador de la liga. El record del equipo de STRI es de 9 juegos ganado y 1 perdido. Equipo: Daniel Millán, Maximino Guerra, Ricardo Racines, Marcel Eapilly, Carlos Tejada, Richard Condit, Luis Turner, José Barahona, Luis López, Aldo Návalo y Omar López. (Foto: A. Montaner)

- Antonia Trujillo, UNAM, Mar 2-Apr 2, to do research on understory plants on BCI.
- Uldrich Zimmerman, Univ. of Wurzburg, Mar 5-17, to collaborate on G. Goldtein's project.
- Walter Carson, Univ of Minnesota, Mar 2 - Apr 10, and Troy Mielke, research assistant, Mar 2, 93 - Mar 94, to initiate research on BCI in collaboration with Stephen Hubbell on project, "Do mammals and insects control tropical forest diversity?: a community level experimental test."
- María A. Oliveira M., Mercedes Rouge Z., José R. Dolmus B., José Guillermo Tello S., Ernesto Ruela I., Nadia E. Navarrete P., Teresa E. Hernández V., Mayra E. Servellón V., Rosa V. Sandoval M., Marie Clair Paíz, OTS, Feb 28, Mar 1st-2, to visit BCI.

### Departures

- Klaus Winter, Feb 27-May 3, Wurzburg, Germany, to attend G. Zotz's doctoral exam.
- Egbert Leigh, Feb 27 - mid Apr, on official business to Washington, DC, & around the U.S. for seminar presentations at various universities and then to India.
- Richard Cooke, Feb 28-Mar 7, to participate in a training course for the personnel of the National Museum of Nicaragua. Topic: *Recovery, Identification and Interpretation of dietary archaeofaunas.*

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Moved to Tupper

Brian Keller, oil spill project manager, has moved from Naos to the Tupper Center, Room # 509, ext. 312.

### Information for Nature photographers

Foppe Broelsma is requesting nature photographs to be published in a newly established magazine. He is also interested in collections of wildflower photographs. Anyone interested should contact him at Hegdambroek 1726, 6546 VX Nijmegen, Netherlands.

### To Return Equipment

All returns of supplies, materials or equipment bought with a STRI Purchase Order should be processed by the Procurement Department. On several occasions merchandise has been returned without advising Procurement/Accounting Department. This has caused delays in sorting out the problem, and at times increases in price or double invoicing. Please feel free to contact the Procurement Department immediately if there is something wrong with your order and avoid making direct arrangements without informing Procurement/Accounting Department.

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH

- Mar 1: Director's scientific support staff meeting, 9 am, Tupper Meeting Room.
- Mar 3: Conversations at the Smithsonian: Agoutis and the Forest, by Nick Smythe, 3:30 pm Tupper Auditorium.
- Mar 9: Scientific Staff Meeting, 1:30 pm, Tupper Meeting Room.
- Mar 10-12: I Marine Environmental Education Workshop for panamanian teachers, organized by Argelis Guevara, Cynthia Martin, Arcadio Rodaniche and Jesús Armulles.
- Mar 15-18: James Early, SI Assistant Secretary for Education and Public Service, Ann Bay, director, SI Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and Rex Ellis, director of SI Office of Museum Programs will visit STRI.
- Mar 22: Inauguration of CAM workshop, organized by Klaus Winter.
- Mar 22-26: CAM workshop at STRI.
- Mar 29: Secretary Robert Adams arrives to attend the biannual meeting of the Smithsonian National Associates Board.
- Apr 1: Members of the Smithsonian National Associates Board and Undersecretary Connie Newman visit for the board's biannual meeting and a tour of STRI's facilities.

Deadline for proposals for Scholarly Studies Program is March 15. Applicants must submit 22 copies of their proposal to the director's office.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### X National Scientific Congress

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#### *Décimo Congreso Científico Nacional*

The X National Scientific Congress will be held Mar 3-5 at the University of Panama. The following talks will be given by STRI participants. A full program will be posted at the Tupper Bulletin Board. ••• *El Décimo Congreso Científico Nacional, organizado por la Vicerrectoría de Investigación y Postgrado de la Universidad de Panamá, se llevará a cabo los días 3, 4 y 5 de marzo. Las siguientes personas participarán por el Instituto Smithsonian.*

#### Area de Geociencias

Miércoles 3 de marzo

Lugar: Centro de Tecnología Educativa

11:45 - 12:00 Colinvaux, Paul; Bush, Mark y Piperno, Dolores. Expositor: Enrique Moreno.

Clima de Panamá desde la última glaciación:

estudio basado en el análisis de polen de sedimentos lacustres.

#### Area de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología

Miércoles 3 de marzo

Lugar: Auditorio Bernardo Lombardo

Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Exactas

11:00 - 11:15 Herrera, Amalia; Jara, Javier; Ramos, Hilda y Jackson, Jeremy. Expositor: Amalia Herrera.

Variación en la historia natural de dos especies *Stylopo-*  
*ma*.

#### Area de Ciencias Agropecuarias

Viernes 5 de marzo

Lugar: Sala Ricardo Miró, Biblioteca Interamericana Simon Bolívar.

8:30 - 8:45 Baso Borace, Emerita, Windsor, Donald. Expositor: Emerita Baso Borace

Evidencia de nueva adaptación en especies de ácaros (flia. Canestriniidae) asociados a coleópteros (*Chrysomelidae cassidinae*)

#### Area de Ciencias Naturales

Viernes 5 de marzo

Lugar: Centro de Tecnología Educativa

9:00 - 9:15 Duke Norman; Pinzón, Zuleika; y Prada, Martha. Expositor: Martha Prada

Estudio de demografía de plántulas de Mangle Rojo en Bahía Las Minas, Caribe Panameño.

9:15 - 9:30 Duke, Norman; Pinzón, Zuleika. Expositor: Zuleika Pinzón

Uso de fotografías aéreas para determinar el impacto de dos grandes derrames de petróleo sobre una zona de manglar en Panamá.

9:30 - 9:45 García Juliao, Milton; Smith P., Alan. Expositor: Milton García

Filtro que puede ser utilizado para imitar condiciones de luz del sotobosque.

9:45 - 10:00 Guariguata, Manuel R. Patrones demográficos en individuos juveniles del árbol de membrillo, *Gustavia superba* (Lecythidaceae)

10:00 - 10:15 Andrade, José Luis y Nobel, Park. Expositor: José Luis Andrade.

Relaciones Hídricas de la Cactácea epífita *Epiphyllum phyllanthus* en la Isla de Barro Colorado

10:15 - 10:30 Patiño; Sandra.

Relaciones fisiológicas, morfológicas y de historia natural en frutas de algunas especies de *Ficus*.

10:45 - 11:00 Schneider, Laura.

Aspectos mutualísticos del género Azteca: El caso Azteca-*Ficus paraensis*.

Viernes 5 de marzo

Lugar: Centro de Tecnología Educativa

1:45 - 2:00 Ibañez D, Roberto; Arosemena, Fernando; Solis, Frank y Jaramillo, César. Expositor: César Jaramillo.

Anfibios y reptiles de las tierras altas de la Cordillera Piedras-Pacora, Parque Nacional Chagres.

2:00 - 2:15 Ibañez D, Roberto; Arosemena, Rand, Stanley; Arosemena, Fernando; Solis y Jaramillo, Cesar. Expositor: Roberto Ibañez.

Un programa de seguimiento de poblaciones de anfibios en el área central de Panamá.

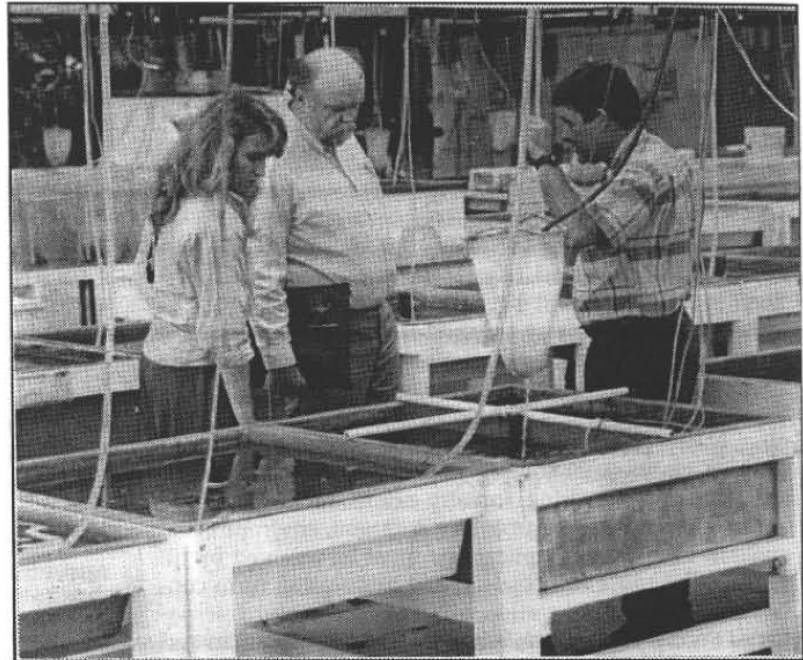
Viernes 5 de marzo

Lugar: Centro de Tecnología Educativa

4:00 - 4:15 Virgo Brown, Aurelio. Cultivo de anteras de *Sorghum bicolor* (L.): cribado, callogénesis e histocitología.

4:15 - 4:30 Virgo Brown, Aurelio.

Ginogénesis *in situ* en *Sorghum bicolor*: dosis letales y efectos sobre la embriogénesis.



During his visit to the Naos Laboratories, Robert Jenkins (center), vicepresident, Science Division of the Nature Conservancy, was given a tour of the facilities by Arcadio Rodaniche, biological technician and Mercedes Arosemena, laboratory manager. ••• Durante su visita a los Laboratorios de Naos, Robert Jenkins (centro), vice-presidente de la División de Ciencias de "Nature Conservancy", conoció las instalaciones con Arcadio Rodaniche, Técnico en Biología-Docente y Mercedes Arosemena, Administradora del Laboratorio.

(Foto: A. Montanter)

### Postdoctoral Position in Evolutionary Biology

The Hawaiian Evolutionary Biology Program, University of Hawaii, is currently seeking a postdoctoral fellow to work on the evolution of color polymorphism in a Hawaiian spider. The position will be for approximately 15 months, commencing in Jul/Aug 1993. The focus of the research will be an examination of whether the frequent similarity of color polymorphism traits in unrelated species within lineages is a result of independent, repeated and convergent evolution of the trait. We are currently using the Hawaiian spider *Theridion grillator* (Araneae, Theridiidae) which demonstrates a highly visible and stable polymorphism. In addition, there will be opportunities to work on other questions in evolutionary biology with emphasis on the Hawaiian biota.

Candidates should have a PhD in systematic zoology and computational skills for phylogenetic analyses. A demonstrated ability to carry out independent research and publish results would be advantageous. In addition, experience with chromatographic examination of pigments would be highly desirable.



Minimum stipend \$28,000 per annum. Application deadline Feb 24, 1993. Send curriculum vitae, statement of research interests and names and addresses of three references to Dr. Rosemary G. Gillespie, Hawaiian Evolutionary Biology Program, University of Hawaii, 3050 Maile Way, Honolulu, HI 96822. Telephone and Fax: (808) 956-8884.

### Tenth International Seminar on Forest Administration and Management.

The 1993 seminar will be held from Sep 12th until Oct 11th. It will visit major forested regions throughout the United States to make meaningful comparisons of a wide spectrum of management and administrative systems. Topics to be presented include policy development, planning, conservation biology, forest protection, grazing and wildlife management, integrated resource management, critical decision making, forestry extension, forest health, women in natural resources development, environmental analysis and more. Applications must be received by Jul 1, 1993. For more information and application form contact the Office of Education or write to Director International Forestry Seminars, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115. Phone 313-747-4337. Fax: 313-936-2195.

### March Birthdays at STRI

Pablo Rodríguez	2
Victor Castillo	3
Haris Lessios	4
Lazlo Vegh	6
Alberto González	8
Everardo Curney	11
Mario Bernal	12
Rosa Zambrano	25
Richard Condit	29
Ana Maria Ford	30
Alan P. Smith	31



### Funding Deadlines

- James Smithson Society Awards. Deadline Mar 15.
- Scholarly Studies Program. Deadline at Director's Office, Mar 15.
- Altherton Seidell Endowment Fund. Deadline at Director's, Apr 1st.
- Research Resources Program. Deadline Apr 15. Information: OFG 287-3271.

### Programa de Becas 1992 - 1993 de la Fundación Interamericana

La Fundación Interamericana ofrece cuatro clases de becas a profesionales y especialistas que realizan investi-

ción práctica del desarrollo procedentes del Caribe, América Latina y de Estados Unidos. Las becas promueven la resolución de problemas del desarrollo y la constitución de una comunidad de profesionales y especialistas del desarrollo de base en toda la región de las Américas. Los becarios examinan las actividades de la población pobre rural y urbana para mejorar sus vidas; sus métodos de organización y producción; políticas y programas destinados a paliar su pobreza. Para mayor información llamar a la Oficina de Educación, tel. 27-4918. O escribir a IAF Fellowship Program-Dept. 444, 901 North Stuart St., 10th floor, Arlington, VA 22203, U.S.A.

### Cursos sobre Audiovisuales

La Asociación Conservacionista de la Universidad de Panamá (ACUPAN) realizará los seminarios de "Fotografías para Audiovisuales" y "Técnicas de Presentación de Audiovisuales", del 10. al 12 y del 15 al 27 de marzo respectivamente, en la Dirección de Tecnología Educativa de la Universidad de Panamá. Ambos cursos serán de 40 horas cada uno, con una asistencia máxima de veinte (20) personas. El costo será de veinte balboas (B/.20.00) por persona.

### STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

Leigh Jr., E. G. & Putz, F. E. 1993. "The Decline of Tree Diversity on Newly Isolated Tropical Islands: a Test of a Null Hypothesis and some Implications. *Evolutionary Ecology* 7:76-102.

Sakagami, S.F., Roubik, D.W. & Zucchi, R. 1993. "Ethology of the Robber Stingless Bee, *Lestrimeliitta limao* (Hymenoptera: Apidae). *Sociobiology* 21(2): 237-277.

### Recorderis

Se les invita a toda familia STRI a visitar la exhibición fotográfica Flores Silvestres del Parque Nacional Soberanía. Además del horario al público - martes, miércoles y jueves, 1-5 pm, se abrirá los domingos 28 de febrero y 7 de marzo. Traigan a sus parientes y amistades. Visitar la exhibición le permitirá apreciar un ejemplo de los recursos naturales y de belleza existente en Panamá, así como aprender algo sobre la importancia de las flores en la reproducción de las plantas y sobre las relaciones entre plantas y animales. Conocer un poco más acerca del bosque tropical es imprescindible para poder conservarlo adecuadamente. Como dijo el conservacionista de Senegal Baba Dioum: "Al final de cuentas sólo conservamos lo que queremos, sólo queremos lo que conocemos y sólo comprendemos lo que nos enseñan."