

STRI newsletter

July 30, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 31

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Aug 3, noon seminar speaker will be Carlos Perez Santos, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Spain.

Presentación del Libro "Serpientes de Panamá"

Resumen

La República de Panamá posee serpientes pertenecientes a 8 familias diferentes, con 61 géneros y 136 especies. Se hace un análisis y descripción de cada especie presente en territorio panameño y se dan claves para su determinación así como datos de su biología. Se da distribución geográfica haciendo hincapié en las siguientes variables: vertiente, tipo de clima, distribución por provincias, altura sobre el nivel del mar, precipitación, ecología y formaciones vegetales.



GAMBOA SEMINAR

Wednesday, August 4, Gamboa Seminar speaker will be Joshua Schwarts, University of Missouri, Columbia, at 4:35pm, at the Gamboa School

Frogs' Solutions to Males' Problems

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Bill Rose, Cornell University, Aug 1-14, to work with Deedra McClearn, on BCI.
- Duane Jackson, short-term visitor from Georgia, Aug 3-25, to carry out a study on the substrate communication by larval tortoise beetles, at Tupper Center.
- Yoshiaki Ito, Nagoya University, Japan, Aug 5-23, to work with Seigo Higashi in sociological studies of Neotropical social insects, on BCI.
- Stephen Mulkey, University of Missouri, Aug 6-14, to work with Joe Wright and Alan Smith on *Psychotria* and *Marantaceae*, on a Scholarly Studies grant.

Departures

- Dolores Piperno, Jul 30-3 Jan, to resume her appointment at the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, consult with colleagues, work at the New York Botanical Garden and National Herbarium, attend the annual

Twenty one primary school teachers and supervisors participated in the First Training Seminar on Formal Environmental Education this past week. This seminar is the first step of a project organized by the Bocas Work Group composed by the Ministry of Education, INRENARE, STRI and non-governmental organizations from Panama and Bocas ••• Veintiún maestros de primaria y supervisores de Bocas del Toro participaron en el Primer Seminario de Capacitación en Educación Ambiental Formal del 26 al 30 de julio. Este seminario es el primer paso de un proyecto organizado por el Grupo de Trabajo de Bocas, compuesto por el Ministerio de Educación, el INRENARE, STRI, y organizaciones no-gubernamentales de Panamá y Bocas.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington D.C. and take annual leave.

- Jorge Ventocilla, Jul 30-10 Aug, to Madison, WI, to attend the American Ecological Society Meeting and present a seminar on the Kuna people at the University of Wisconsin.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

From Procurement Department ••• De la Oficina de Compras

Starting October 1st, the use of the "eagle" for air mail will be eliminated. Instead, stamps and postmarks will be used at STRI. To initiate this activity, the mail room at Procurement is being remodeling presently. Details and instructions will be published soon ••• A partir del 1ro de octubre, el uso del "águila" para correo al extranjero será eliminado. Para reemplazarlo, se usarán estampillas y sellos postales. Para llevar a cabo esta actividad, se está remodelando la oficina de correos actualmente. Mayor información e instrucciones se publicarán por este mismo medio en las próximas semanas.

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Missing ••• Extraviado

Kodak slide projector in black case belonging to the Office of Education. If anyone borrowed it, please return it. Projector is needed by office staff ••• *Proyector de diapositivas marca Kodak dentro de un maletín negro se ha extraviado de la Oficina de Educación. Si alguien lo ha tomado prestado, favor de devolverlo enseguida, ya que el proyector se usa frecuentemente por el personal de Educación.*

At Tupper Center

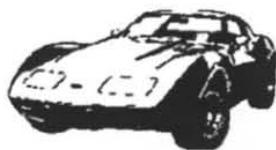
- Tue, Aug 3 ■ Noon seminar by Carlos Perez Santos, Auditorium.
 ■ Animal Behaviorist Committee meeting, Small Meeting Room, 1pm.
 Wed-Fri, Aug 4-6 Security Meeting, Small Meeting Room, 8am.

Sem Facility News

During Dolores Piperno's leave from STRI (Jul 30-3 Jan) John Jones will be acting coordinator of the Scanning Electron Microscope facility. Questions and appointments to use the facility can be directed through him. We remind all STRI staff scientists, fellows and visitors that a technician is available to prepare specimens and carry out microscopy every Tuesday evening from 5-9pm and Saturday between 9am-5pm. Other evening appointments can be arranged on request.

Acting Seminar Officer

Neal Smith will serve as Seminar Officer during Dolores Piperno's absence, from Jul 30-3 Jan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**AFCU Automobile Loan****Préstamos de AFCU para Comprar Automóviles****AFCU finances new and used automobiles:**

New Vehicles: Those not previously titled to an individual and have full factory warranty with less than 1000 miles: it can be financed up to 85% of the cost of the vehicles excluding tags and taxes on an American car and up to 90% of the purchase price on a foreign car excluding tags and taxes.

Used Vehicles: Any model previously titled or a current model with more than 1000 miles: it can be financed up to 80% of the purchase price or retail value of the vehicle (whichever is less) as determined by the NADA Used Car Guide, excluding tags and taxes.
 ■ An automobile insurance is required on all cases.

- The applicant must be a member in good standing and have \$100 on deposit in the regular share savings account.
- Must have been employed at the Smithsonian Institution for more than one year/a "permanent" full time employee.
- All AFCU accounts must be current.
- A copy of the dealer's order must accompany the loan request. If purchasing the vehicle from a private owner, there is an Intent to Sell form that must be completed by the seller of the vehicle. This form can be obtained from our Panama representative in the STRI office.
- Must submit a copy of last pay voucher and all documentation of any additional income that must be considered in approving the loan.

AFCU financia compra de vehículos nuevos y usados

Vehículos Nuevos: Son los que no han tenido dueño previo, tienen garantía y menos de 1000 millas de uso: AFCU financia el 85% del costo del auto sin contar costo de placa o impuestos si el carro es americano, y 90% en la compra de un vehículo no americano, sin contar el costo de la placa o los impuestos.

Vehículos Usados: Cualquier modelo que haya tenido otro propietario, o un modelo del año que haya sido corrido más de 1000 millas: AFCU financia hasta el 80% del costo de la compra o del costo al consumidor del carro (el menor entre ambos) como lo determina el libro azul de carros usados, excluyendo el costo de la placa o los impuestos.

- Todos los préstamos exigen que el carro sea asegurado.
- El cliente debe tener su cuenta abierta en AFCU, con un mínimo de \$100 en su cuenta de ahorros.
- Debe tener más de un año como empleado permanente del Smithsonian (tiempo completo).
- Debe estar al día en todas sus cuentas en AFCU
- Una copia de la orden de compra del vendedor debe acompañar la aplicación de préstamo. Si se está comprando el vehículo de una persona natural, una aplicación de Intención de Vender debe ser llenada por éste y acompañar la aplicación igualmente. Esta forma se encuentra en las oficinas de los representantes de AFCU en STRI.
- Una copia de su último cheque de quincena.
- Toda otra documentación sobre ingresos que desee someter para ser considerada para probar el préstamo.

Mención Honorífica

Luis Fernando García, asistente de investigación en el laboratorio de Biología Molecular en Naos, recibió una mención honorífica en la Universidad Nacional de Colombia por tesis para obtener el título de licenciatura en biología, el 23 de julio. Nuestras felicitaciones.

Visits to BCI***Visitas a Barro Colorado***

■ All visits to BCI must be arranged well in advance with the Visitors Office. Any visitors appearing at Gamboa without prior approval will not be allowed on the boat.

- Tour groups, with guides provided by STRI, are restricted to Tuesdays and Saturdays. The limit for these groups on Saturdays is 30; the limit for Tuesdays is 15.
- Special visits to BCI by friends and relatives of STRI employees and VIP visits must be scheduled for other days of the week. The limit for such visitors is 5 persons total, including the STRI employee. The host for such groups is responsible for guiding them.
- Anyone requesting visits to Barro Colorado Island should be made aware of the Gigante trips available from Eco Tours, as well as the availability of Pipeline Road and other such opportunities.
- *Todas las visitas a Barro Colorado deben programarse con suficiente tiempo de anticipación con la Oficina de Visitantes. Visitantes que lleguen a Gamboa sin aprobación previa se les negará entrada al bote.*
- *Grupos de turistas atendidos por guías de STRI se permiten los martes y sábados. El número máximo de visitantes los sábados es de 30. El máximo número para los martes es de 15.*
- *Visitas especiales a Barro Colorado de amigos y familiares de empleados de STRI y visitantes oficiales deberán planearse para cualquier otro día. El número total, incluyendo el empleado será de 5 por día. En este caso el empleado será el responsable por guiar al grupo.*
- *Todos aquellos que pidan visitar Barro Colorado deberá informárse de las giras a Gigante por Eco Tours, así como la disponibilidad del Camino del Oleoducto así como otras oportunidades similares.*



On BCI, construction of laboratory facilities, new pier, workers' dormitory, 2-unit scientists's residence, phase II utilities and paving, and petroleum shed facility is underway. In the photo, the structure of one of the laboratory buildings that is scheduled to be finished by the beginning of next year ••• En Barro Colorado progresan las nuevas instalaciones que incluirán dos edificios para laboratorios, dormitorio para trabajadores y científicos, prolongación de la calle y un nuevo muelle. La vista muestra la estructura de uno de los edificios para laboratorios que se espera estará terminado para principios del próximo año.

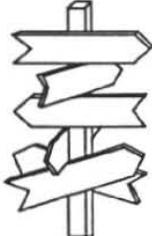
(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Special Competition for Cross-Referencing

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Arts and Humanities opened a special competition for all Smithsonian bureaus and offices that would reward the best implementation plans for cross referencing. By cross-referencing, says Tom L. Freudenheim, "I mean labels telling the public where to go to see related material. It would involve subject matter linkages in one or several of the following contexts:

- within individual Smithsonian organizations
- between Smithsonian organizations (either on the Mall or at other locations)
- between Smithsonian organizations and other cultural organizations locally,
- between Smithsonian organizations and other cultural organization in national or international arenas."

Two awards, up to \$25,000 each, will be made this fiscal year. The deadline for proposals (a narrative not to exceed 5 pages and a budget) is Sep 1, 1993 and awards will be made in October. There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted from each Smithsonian bureau or office, but each proposal must be by the bureau or office



SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

director. For further questions call Barbara Schneider at (202) 357-1776. Please submit three copies of each proposal to Beth Fisher at Tom L. Freudenheim, Assistant Secretary for the Arts and Humanities, Smithsonian Institution.

Safety News ••• Sobre Control de Accidentes

Microwave users: please stay put with your food or beverage as they are being heated to avoid the items being burned and strong odors being generated. *A los usuarios del microondas: favor quedarse junto al "micro" mientras sus alimentos o bebidas están siendo calentadas. Esto es para prevenir que los alimentos se quemen y se produzcan malos olores.*

New Location of Coke Machine

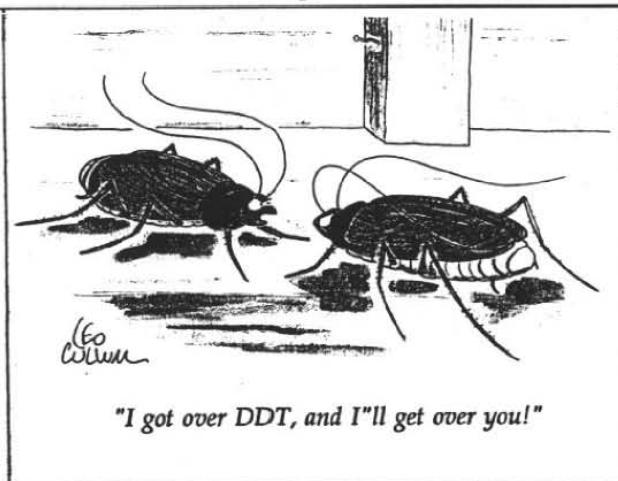
The Coke machine was moved up to the staff lounge at Tupper Center for the convenience of both Tivoli and Tupper clients.

New Address

For friends and colleagues of Nelida Gomez, her new address is c/o Institut fur pharmazeutische Biologie, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Mendelsohnstr. 1, 38106 Braunschweig, Germany. Tel. 0049-531-391-5681.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**Marine Fellowships for Australia**

The Australian Museum, in conjunction with the Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation is offering a three-year fellowship to a Ph.D. student to support field work on the Great Barrier Reef, based at Lizard Island Research Station. 1994 is the 10th anniversary of the Lizard Island Research Station Doctoral Fellowships. The fellowship is available to a student from any country enrolled, or about to enrol, in a Ph.D. program. It is expected that the recipient will carry out significant long-term field studies in a scientific discipline relevant to the Great



Barrier Reef. To learn more about the conditions of the award, the Lizard Island Research Station and the application, contact the STRI Office of Education at the Tupper Center. Deadline for applications: October 1.

Curso sobre Desarrollo Sostenible

La Organización para Estudios Tropicales, en colaboración con la Universidad de Costa Rica ofrecen el curso sobre los principios ecológicos para el desarrollo sostenible en América Latina (93-6) para profesionales en puestos políticos, administrativos y técnicos, cuyas decisiones afectan el uso de los recursos naturales y la calidad ambiental. El curso ha sido concebido para funcionarios preferiblemente sin formación previa en ciencias biológicas o afines, pero interesados en comprender los principios ecológicos y aplicarlos en el proceso de toma de decisiones. El curso comprenderá lecciones de teoría, charlas y salidas al campo, unidas al estudio de casos, individualmente y en grupos. Será impartido en Costa Rica, en noviembre de 1993. Las solicitudes deberán estar en la OET a antes del 3 de septiembre. Dirección: Organización para Estudios Tropicales, Apartado 676-2050, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, Costa Rica. Para retirar una copia de la solicitud de admisión, visite la Oficina de Educación, Centro Tupper.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

Batista, M. and Morales, Lesbia E. 1993. Efecto de la Luz en un Modelo Simplificado para la Cuantificación del Fitoplancton Bentónico. Thesis, Panama: Universidad de Panamá.

Lamela, Mariano, Barreto M., Vázquez, Correa, Mireya, Briceño, C., Camargo, E., Martins, M. de and Castillo, R.A. del. 1992. "Actividad Anti-Trombótica de un Extracto Vegetal de la Flora Panameña." *Revista Panameña de Cardiología* 6(1): 38-40.

Muñoz, Leopoldo. 1993. Biomasa del Zooplancton de la Bahía de Panamá. Thesis, Universidad de Panamá.

Zotz, Gerhard and Winter, Klaus. 1993. "Short-Term Regulation of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism Activity in a Tropical Hemiepiphyte, *Clusia uvitana*." *Plant Physiology* 102: 835-841.

From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet
• Page-a-Day Calendar •

You may already be buying recycled paper for office use, but you may not know that other office products made of post-consumer recycled plastic are also available. The Pimby Company of Purdys, N.Y., is one firm that makes scissors, pens, push-pins, and rulers of recycled materials.

STRI newsletter supplement

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

July 30, 1993

No. 31

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

It is only the constant exertion and working of our sensitive, intellectual, moral and physical machinery that keeps us from rusting, and so becoming useless.—Charles Simmons

Es sólo con el uso constante y el trabajo de nuestra maquinaria sensorial, intelectual, moral y física que nos mantendremos sin oxidarnos y activos.
—Charles Simmons

Good Health is Just a Walk Away

Did you hang up your tennis racket and frisbee in preparation for the sedentary life the rainy season imposes on us? It's true that the inclement weather does eliminate some kinds of outdoor sports, but that doesn't mean that you have to go into hibernation. Other avenues are open to you. One that is gaining in popularity is the sport of walking.

Start a daily regime of walking and, physical-fitness expert say, you can strengthen your muscles, flatten your stomach, lower your blood pressure and cholesterol level, improve your blood circulation, breathe easier, and even think better.

Sound tempting? Before you take a step, read these tips:

- Try to walk every day. For any exercise to be effective, it has to be done regularly.
- Try to gradually increase the distance you walk a day. The better your mileage, the more benefits you'll receive from your outings. When you stop to consider the fact that studies show that the average office worker walks 2 1/2 miles a day on the job, adding a few more miles should be a breeze.
- Maintain a moderate speed of walking, one which is faster than your usual pace but won't exhaust you. Crawling along at a snail's pace is monotonous as well as physically ineffective.
- Dress appropriately. Wear clothes that allow you to move freely and, since you'll hate walking if you end up with corns and blisters on your feet, wear comfortable shoes with low heels or no heels.
- Set a routine for yourself. If you have trouble getting into the swing of walking. For example, make it a point to walk at the same time every day until it becomes a habit.
- Rest whenever you're tired. Find a spot to sit down, and give your feet a break. Walking should be fun, not tedious.

You'll find that walking is an ideal sport. You won't have to worry about injuries (don't forget to look both ways before crossing a street), you can keep it up year-round, and you'll be hard on the heels of good health.

Caminar para una Salud Mejor

¿Ya guardó su raqueta de tenis y su "frisbee" preparándose para la vida sedentaria que la temporada lluviosa nos impone? Si bien es cierto que las inclemencias del tiempo entorpecen algunos tipos de deportes al aire libre, esto no quiere decir que hay que entrar en período de hibernación. Existen otras alternativas. Una que está ganando mucha popularidad es el deporte de caminar.

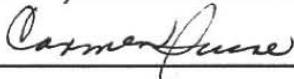
Comience un régimen diario de caminar, y según dicen los expertos en educación física, esto sirve para fortalecer los músculos, aplanar el estómago, bajar la presión alta y los niveles de colesterol, mejorar la circulación y la respiración, y hasta para pensar mejor.

¿Tentador? Antes del primer paso, lea estos consejos:

- *Trate de caminar todos los días. Para que cualquier ejercicio tenga efectividad, tiene que ser hecho en forma cotidiana.*
- *Trate de aumentar gradualmente la distancia que camine diariamente. Mientras mejor sea su millaje, mejores beneficios recibirá de sus caminatas. Cuando Ud. se detenga a pensar sobre el hecho de que los estudios muestran que el oficinista promedio camina 2 1/2 millas diarias en el trabajo, agregar unas cuantas millas más debe resultar muy fácil.*
- *Mantenga una velocidad moderada para caminar, un poco más rápido que el paso acostumbrado, pero que no sea agotador. Moverse a paso de tortuga es monótono y no hace ningún efecto físico.*
- *Vístase apropiadamente. Use ropa que le permita moverse libremente, y ya que Ud. odiará caminar si va a terminar con callos y vejigas en los pies, use zapatos cómodos, de tacones bajos, o sin tacones.*
- *Impóngase una rutina si tiene problemas con el régimen de caminar. Por ejemplo, trate de caminar siempre a la misma hora todos los días hasta que se vuelva un hábito.*
- *Descanse cuando se sienta cansado. Encuentre un lugar donde sentarse, y déle un descanso a sus pies. Caminar debe ser algo divertido, no tedioso.*

Verá que caminar es un deporte ideal. No tendrá que preocuparse de lesiones (no se olvide de mirar bien antes de cruzar las calles), se puede practicar todo el año, y estará en franco camino hacia una mejor salud.

Hasta la próxima

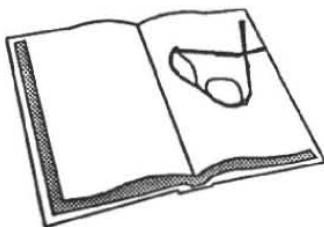


July 30, 1993

No. 11

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

STRI NEW BOOKLIST



Anthocyanins in fruits, vegetables, and grains / G. Mazza, E. Miniati. QK898.A55M39 1993X STRI.

Annual Review of Information Science and Technology, v.27, 1992. / edited by Martha E. Williams. Z699.A1A615 STRI.

The Biology of mosquitoes, v.1: Development, nutrition and reproduction. / A.M. Clements. QL536.C556 1992X STRI.

Caterpillars: ecological and evolutionary constraints on foraging / edited by Nancy E. Stamp and Timothy M. Casey. QL542.C38 1993X STRI.

Cognitive aspects of stimulus control / edited by W.K. Honig, J. Gregor Fetterman. QL785.C49 1992X STRI.

Current ornithology, v.10, 1993 / edited by Dennis M. Powerr. QL671.C976 STRI.

Dunaliella: physiology, biochemistry, and biotechnology / editors, Mordhay Avron, Ami Ben-Amotz. QK569.P65D86 1992X STRI.

Ecological physical chemistry: proceedings of an international workshop held in Siena, Italy, 8-12 November 1990 / editors, C. Rossi and E. Tiezzi. TD193.E25 1991X STRI.

Evolution and diversity of sex ratio in insects and mites / Dana L. Wrensch and Mercedes A. Ebbert, editors; foreword by Eric L. Charnov. QL493.E95 1993X STRI.

Evolution and the recognition concept of species: collected writings / Hugh E.H. Paterson; edited by Shane F. McEvey. QH380.P38 1993X STRI.

Genetics and breeding of ornamental species / edited by J. Harding, F. Singh, and J.N.M. Mol.

SB406.8.G46 1991X STRI.

Insect pollination of crops / John B. Free.

QK926.F853 1993 STRI.

Metazoan life without oxygen / edited by Christopher Bryant. QH518.5.M48 1991X STRI.

Ordination in the study of morphology, evolution and systematics of insects: applications and quantitative genetic rationals / edited by J.T. Sorensen and R. Footit. QL494.O73 1992X STRI.

Paleobotany and the evolution of plants / Wilson N. Stewart, Gar W. Rothwell. QE905.S73 1993X STRI.

Photosynthetic pigments of algae / Kingsley s. Rowan. QK565.R77 1989X STRI.

Putting biodiversity on the map: priority areas for global conservation / by C.J. Bibby... [et al.].

QL676.5.P99 1992 STRI.

The Search for the gene / Bruce Wallace.

QH430.W344 1992X STRI.

Sperm competition in birds: evolutionary causes and consequences / T.R. Birkhead, A.P. Moller; illustrated by David Quinn. QL698.2.B619 1992 STRI.

Structure and functioning of seminatural meadows / edited by Milena Rychnovsk; with contributions by Emilie Bal tov -Tul ckov... [et al.].

QK938.M4S87 1993X STRI.

Sustainable agriculture and the environment in the humid tropics / Committee on Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment in the Humid Tropics, Board on Agriculture and board on Science and Technology for International Development, National Research Council. S481.N38 1993X STRI.

Weathering, soils & paleosols / edited by I.P. Martini and W. Chesworth. QE570.W43 1992X STRI.

Wetlands: an approach to improving decision making in wetland restoration and creation / Mary E. Kentula... [et al.]; edited by Ann J. Hairston.

QH76.W47 1992X STRI.