

STRI newsletter

August 20, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 34

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Aug 24 noon seminar speaker will be John H. Warren, University of Rochester.

Genetic Conflict and the Evolution of Sex Determination

Abstract

Conflicting selective pressures (genetic) occurs between autosomal, sex-linked and cytoplasmic inherited genes for sex ratio and sex determination. Population, genetic and molecular studies of genetic conflict over sex allocation in the parasitoid wasp *Nasonia vitripennis* are presented, and other systems in which genetic conflict may be actively shaping sex determination systems are discussed.



Hely Andrade from the STRI's Accounting Office, explains overtime calculations to Maria Morello during a training course for STRI timekeepers on Aug 8, 11 and 13 ••• Hely Andrade de la Oficina de Contabilidad de STRI, explica cálculos de sobre-tiempo a María Morello, durante un curso para los encargados del cómputo de asistencia laboral en las diferentes estaciones del Instituto.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Hugo Navarrete, biology student at Universidad Pontificia Católica del Ecuador, Aug 22-4 Sep, to study *Ednostaedia* species for his B.S. thesis.
- John H. Warren, University of Rochester, Aug 22-5 Sep, invited by STRI to present seminars and consult with staff. He will also conduct a preliminary survey of cytoplasmic factors in neotropical insects.

Departures

- Haris Lessios, Aug 21-16 Sep, to Montpellier, France, to attend the meetings of the European Evolution Society, then to Corsica to visit the marine laboratory and collect specimens, and to Dijon, France, to attend the International Echinoderm meetings.
- Jeremy Jackson and Nancy Knowlton, Aug 21-4 Sep, to Montpellier, France to attend the meetings of the European Evolution Society, then to Marseille to visit the Station Marine d'Endome.
- Amalia Herrera, Aug 21-Sep 8, to Montpellier, France, to attend the meetings of the European Evolution Society.

- Leopoldo León, Aug 22-28, to SI, Washington D.C., on official business.
- Monica Alvarado, Aug 22-1 Sep, to SI, Washington D.C., on official business.
- Alejandro Hernandez, Juan Barria and Mario Santamaria from the Security Office, Aug 23-3 Sep, to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. They will meet with Ecuadorian game wardens to exchange methods and procedures used for protection of reserves. Alejandro Hernandez will present a seminar about STRI.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Aug 24 Save the Old Dormitory/Dining Hall on BCI open meeting, Large Meeting Room, 10am.
- Tue, Aug 24 Noon seminar by John H. Warren, Auditorium.

At the Culebra Marine Biological Reserve

- Tue, Aug 24 Escuela Nuevo Belén, Tocumen, 9-11:30am.
- Wed, Aug 25 Instituto Nacional de Panamá, 9:11:30am.
- Thu, Aug 26 Escuela Nuevo Belén, Tocumen, 9-11:30am.



Los guardaparques del Parque Natural Metropolitano comparten actividades de entrenamiento y mantienen una estrecha relación de colaboración con el cuerpo de guardabosques de STRI, apoyando de esta manera las actividades de conservación de la comunidad.

(Foto: cortesía del PNM)

ENTRENAMIENTO

Curso Práctico de Cultivo de Orquídeas

El sábado 4 de septiembre de 1:30 a 6:pm, Gaspar Silvera dictará un curso práctico para el cultivo de orquídeas en el Centro de Visitantes del Parque Natural Metropolitano. El curso tratará temas como el ambiente apropiado, los medios de cultivo y propagación, orquídeas híbridas y especies nacionales, uso de plaguicidas y hormonas, diagnóstico de enfermedades, plagas, y otros problemas. Taller de trabajo. División, repoteo y siembra de plantas. El valor del curso es de \$30. Para mayores detalles, favor de llamar al 61-4818.

Cursos en el Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) • Rehabilitación de Cuencas Hidrográficas

El objetivo de este curso es el de difundir los conceptos básicos del manejo de cuencas hidrográficas y su rehabilitación, haciendo énfasis en agricultura de ladera y analizando interacciones con el medio socioeconómico y cultural e integrando el uso de herramientas con los SIG. Contiene: el marco conceptual y principales componentes; aspectos biofísicos, legales, institucionales, socioeconómicos, políticos y culturales; diagnóstico de la problemática; proceso de rehabilitación de cuencas; estrategias de intervención; técnicas y métodos para lograr el uso sostenible. Utilización de los SIG. El curso será coordinado por Jorge Faustino, del 11-22 de octubre. Requisitos: participantes relacionados con el manejo de recursos naturales. Indispensable el manejo de computadoras

(sistema operativo, procesador de palabras y hoja electrónica. Costo por participante: \$2,500 (no incluye costos de pasaje). Para obtener copia de la solicitud de admisión, favor de acercarse a la Oficina de Educación en STRI, Centro Tupper.

CONFERENCE

Ancient DNA October 7-9, 1993
Smithsonian Institution
Washington D.C.

The National Museum of Natural History and Conservation Analytical Laboratory at the Smithsonian Institution and the Molecular Evolution Laboratory at STRI the Ancient DNA 2nd International Conference to be held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. on October 7-9. Please contact Mrs. Debra Blue, Conference Secretary, Laboratory of Molecular Systematics, Smithsonian Institution, MCR 534, Museum Support Center, Washington D.C. 20560. Phone: 301-228-3444 • Fax: 301-238-3059 E-Mail: oldDNA@onyx.si.edu.

SAFETY NEWS

For all Tupper parking lot users: Please practice safe and proper driving techniques as you enter and exit this and all STRI parking areas. Exiting through this entrance and entering through the same entrance at a high speed presents a collision hazard in our own parking lot. We also encourage all users to exercise caution when exiting the Center due to the common transit of Chorrera buses which use that road throughout the day. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated ••• *A todos los usuarios del estacionamiento del Centro Tupper: Favor de practicar un manejo cuidadoso al entrar y salir del estacionamiento. Salir por el portón de entrada, así como la tendencia a entrar por el mismo portón a alta velocidad representa un peligro de colisión en nuestro propio estacionamiento. También recordamos a todos los usuarios que tengan cuidado al salir del Centro, ya que ese camino es utilizado por los buses de Chorrera durante el día. Se agradece su cooperación.*

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Acosta Moreno, Luis Alberto. 1992. Reproducción Sexual del Coral *Montastrea cavernosa* (Scleractinia: Faviidae) en la Región de Santa Marta, Caribe Colombiano. Ms. Thesis, Universidad Nacional de Colombia.
- Augspurger, Carol K. and Franson, Susan E. 1993. "Consequences for Seed Distributions of Intra-Crop Variation in Wing-Loading of Wind-Dispersed Species." *Vegetation* 107/108: 121-132.
- Cooke, Richard G. 1993. "Animal Icons and Pre-Columbian Society: The Felidae, with Special Reference to Panama." In: *Reinterpreting Prehistory of Central America*: 169-208, edited by Mark Miller Graham. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado.
- Dressler, Robert L. and Whitten, W. Mark. 1992. "Kegeliella." *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 61: 684-687.
- Duffy, J. Emmett. 1992. "Host Use Patterns and Demography in an Guild of Tropical Sponge-Dwelling Shrimps." *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 90: 127-138.
- Stamps, J.A. and Andrews, Robin W. 1992. "Estimating Asymptotic Size Using the Largest individuals per Sample." *Oecologia* 92:503-512.
- Vermeij, Geerat J. 1993. "The Biological History of a Seaway." *Science* 260: 1603-1604.

A Proposal to Save the Old Dorm on BCI

by A. Stanley Rand

An open meeting to discuss saving the old dormitory/dining hall on BCI is scheduled for Tue, Aug 24, at 10am in the large meeting room at Tupper. Plans for renovation of this historical building, potential uses for it, and possibilities for funding will be discussed. Everyone interested in the history of STRI and with ideas about the form that its future should take is encouraged to attend.



BCI's old dorm/dining hall building ••• El viejo edificio dormitorio-comedor en Barro Colorado. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

The old dormitory/dining hall at the top of the stairs on BCI was the first permanent building on BCI. Constructed in 1924 it has undergone a variety of modifications as additional buildings were constructed and as activities on the island were changed. Originally functioning as lab, dormitory, dining hall and kitchen, until very recently it remained the social center of BCI.

The old dorm hall, like all of the wooden buildings on BCI, is currently slated for demolition, but Dr. Rubinoff has agreed that if funding can be raised outside the STRI budget, the building can be saved.

More than any other building on BCI, the old dorm represents a palpable link to the past. It was in this building, particularly on the front porch overlooking the lake, that ideas have been discussed, plans laid, triumphs celebrated and setbacks drowned. Photographs of the old dorm illustrate most of the articles about BCI, its picture is on the T-shirt celebrating the 70th Anniversary of BCI and buildings figures as the backdrop in many of the pictures in the historical display on BCI. More than any other thing at STRI, the old dorm is a symbol of the length and continuity of our efforts to establish and support science in the tropics. The contrast between this building and the new construction at STRI demonstrates our success.

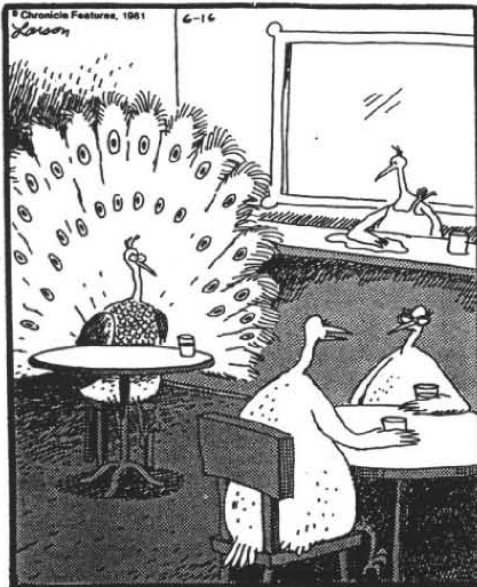
STRI has a responsibility to teach not only casual visitors about its history, but also to teach students beginning their careers here about what has gone before, about those on whose shoulders they stand.

History is most vividly taught and longest remembered if the stories are coupled with the opportunity to see real things from the past. For STRI, the old dormitory/dining hall building on BCI is the most vivid link to the past.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Ecologist, Latin America Science Program

The Nature Conservancy headquarters in Arlington, Virginia seeks an ecologist who will be responsible for coordinating ecological classification, inventory and mapping work undertaken by the Latin America Science Program in collaboration with the network of Conservation Data Centers (CDCs) and other partner organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. This work focuses particularly on vegetation classification and inventory in the neotropics. The position provides leadership in the development and application of Rapid Ecological Assessment techniques in support and training to CDC ecologists, and is responsible for developing and promoting methods to effectively incorporate ecological classification



"Don't encourage him, Sylvia."



Los miembros de la Comisión del Medio Ambiente del Club Rotario de Panamá en compañía de María Bernal, encargada de la Tienda Ecológica del Parque Natural Metropolitano y Ricardo Anguizola, presidente de la comisión, visitaron recientemente Barro Colorado. Esta comisión del Club Rotario de Panamá se propone financiar la biblioteca del Parque. (Foto: Cortesía del PNM)

systems into the CDC process. The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact: Bruce Stein, Director, Latin America Science Programs, The Nature Conservancy, 1815 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209. For detailed duties and requirements, please visit the STRI Office of Education at the Tupper Center.

Deputy Director, Social Sciences

The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme: Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) invites applications for the position of Deputy Director for Social Sciences at the International START Secretariat, based in Washington, DC. The position is available from 15 October 1993, for up to three years. Candidates should have a research degree in a social science or public policy discipline, knowledge of natural science research on global environmental issues and experience in any field of global change research. Deadline for applications: August 31. For more information please visit the Office of Education at Tupper Center or write Prof. Thomas Rosswall, International START Secretariat, 1825 K. Street, NW, Suite 1101, Washington D.C., 20006. Tel. (202)457-5840, Fax: (202)457-5859.

From Madeleine Jacobs

As you have all heard by now, I've left the Smithsonian after 14 years to become Managing Editor of *Chemical and Engineering News Magazine*. I was educated as a chemist and could not pass up this great opportunity, and in a few years, as Editor of this newsweekly magazine.

I will always cherish the trips I made to Panama and to STRI during the time I was the Office of Public Affairs' chief science writer. Those were the best times I ever had! *To all my many friends at STRI, thank you.*

For Sale

Red Mazda 323 hatchback 1992. Full extras, 5 doors, smoked paper, burglar alarm, \$13,500. Interested please call Familia Sandoval at Tel. 33-4704.