

STRI newsletter

September 17, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 38

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Sep 21, noon seminar speaker will be Jose Luis Andrade, University of California at Los Angeles.

Natural History and Ecophysiology of an epiphytic cactus Epiphyllum phyllanthus

Abstract

About 120 of the 1600 species of cacti are epiphytes that occur in locally dry microhabitats in the forest of the humid tropics. This seminar will present the results of observations and experiments conducted on BCI, during the period September 1992-September 1993, on the habitat preferences, water relations and gas exchange of this species. Results suggest that *E. phyllanthus* exhibits host preference and responds rapidly to changes in water availability.



During their recent visit to the Culebra Biological Reserve, students from Colegio Javier gathered evidence of life on the rocky shore, to discuss their findings with classmates ••• Durante su reciente visita a la Reserva Biológica de Culebra, estudiantes del Colegio Javier recogen evidencia de vida en la costa rocosa, para discutir con sus compañeros.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Susan Pendray, University of British Columbia, Canada, Sep 15-31 Oct, to work with Gregory Adler, on BCI.
- Phyllis Coley, University of Utah, Sep 20-20 Dec, to study the deterrence of fungi and herbivores in young leaves with different development, on BCI.
- Thomas Kursar, University of Utah, Sep 20-20 Dec, to study the extension rate and defenses in young leaves of tropical species on BCI, a develop a transplant garden on the Gigante Peninsula.
- Matthew Seidman, Stanford University, Sep 15-15 Dec, to study the coexistence of coral reef fishes: the role of settlement and post-settlement processes, at San Blas.

Departures

- Jose Carlos Espino, Sep 18-27, to Monterrey, CA, to attend the annual A.A.U.S. Scientific Diving Symposium and to participate in a Bio-Marine Workshop.

- Nicholas Smythe, Sep 19-25, to San José, Costa Rica, to attend the International Wildlife Management Congress.
- Ira Rubinoff, Sep 23-1 Oct, on official business to SI, Washinton D.C. and South Carolina.

On Leave

- Oris Acevedo, Sep 21-12 Oct.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Mon, Sep 20 Presentation of the book *Aves de Panamá*, and signing by Robert Ridgely, Conference Hall, 10:am
Memorial Service for Alan P. Smith, Auditorium. 4pm.
- Tue, Sep 21 Noon seminar by Jose Luis Andrade, Auditorium.
TREC Meeting, Small Meeting Room, 1:15pm.
Behavior Discussion Group, Large Meeting Room, 5pm.
- Fri, Sep 24 E.E.O. course, Large Meeting Room, 8am.

At the Culebra Marine Biological Reserve

- Tue, Sep 21 *Colegio Javier*, 8:30-11:30am.
Wed, Sep 22 *Colegio Javier*, 8:30-11:30am.
Thu, Sep 23 *Colegio Javier*, 8:30-11:30am.