

STRI newsletter

October 29, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 43



Participants of the "Flora Neotropica" Meeting held at the Earl S. Tupper Center on October 20-24, and organized locally by Mireya Correa and Noris Salazar Allen ••• Los participantes de la Reunión "Flora Neotrópica" llevada a cabo en Panamá en el Centro Earl S. Tupper del 20-24 de octubre, se reunieron para una foto de grupo con las organizadoras locales de la reunión, Mireya Correa y Noris Salazar.

(Foto: A. Montaner)

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Mon, Nov 1, noon seminar speaker will be Heather Proctor, animal behaviorist candidate.

Trembling Males and Grasping Females —Male Water Mites Capitalize on Female Adaptations for Predation

Abstract
Male *Neumania papillator* water mites produce vibrational signals during courtship that appear to induce predatory responses in females. Using behavioral and phylogenetic methods, I test this sensory exploitation hypothesis for the origin of male trembling, as well as several ideas about how males might benefit from mimicking prey.

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Wednesday, November 3 is Panama's Independence Day and a holiday for STRI ••• El miércoles 3 de noviembre se celebra el día de Independencia de Panamá, y no hay trabajo en STRI.

Tue, Nov 2, seminar speaker will be Lisa Kealhofer, post-doctoral fellow, at 5:00pm.

Holocene Environments and Cultural Impact: The Phytolith Evidence from Central Thailand

Abstract
Phytolith evidence from Central Thailand documents human activities and environmental change for the last 8000 years. Rice was found in the early sequences suggesting an expanded origin to the south of the progenitors of *Oryza sativa* or that rice was being grown there by 6000 BC.

Thu, Nov 4, noon seminar speaker will be David B. McDonald, animal behaviorist candidate from the University of Florida.

Male-Male Cooperation in a Manakin: Genetic and Behavioral Results

Abstract
Lek-mating male long-tailed Manakins perform joint courtship but only one mates. There are not related and thus the behavior appears to be unique. Naturally, cooperators do get long-delayed benefits. This manakin has a relatively large hippocampus which may be related to mapping food locations which in turn, results in an increased ability to discriminate between males. Other manakins in other environments ought not to have this enlarged hippocampus, nor this courtship.

Vielka Vergel to Retire

by Ira Rubinoff

Vielka Vergel began working for STRI in 1968 as a Clerk Steno at the budding marine laboratory developing in the facilities originally under U.S. Army and Navy control as World War I Fort Amador Canal protection fortifications. She helped develop the marine programs at Naos, Galeta and the San Blas, always alert to the competing forces that were anxious to acquire or reacquire the facilities on which—the world's first bi-oceanic marine research program was based—

for more "important" or "ambitious" programs like storing munitions, building hotels, or chasing drug dealers. She helped a very great number of today's successful marine biologists launch their careers in biology by guiding them through the bureaucracies of the Smithsonian Institution, STRI, the U.S. military, the Panamanian Defense Forces, and the rules of a country foreign, but always benevolent to the "innocent students" from abroad.

I am fortunate to have worked with her and to have benefited by her extreme loyalty to this organization through the thick and thin of relations between the U.S. and Panama. We owe her a lot and wish her the best of fortune in the future*

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Neil Davis, Graduate Student Fellow from the University College, London, Oct 31-Dec, to carry out field studies, breeding experiments and molecular analysis of a butterfly hybrid zone, at Tupper and Naos.
- Astrid Ferrer, Oct 1, to work with Gregory Gilbert, on BCI.
- Heinrich Krause, Short-Term Visitor from the University of Dusseldorf, Germany, Oct 2-10 Dec, to conduct studies on the photoinhibition in leaves of tropical plants, at Tupper.
- Takvo Yakamura, Osaka City University, Oct 2, to work with Richard Condit on data analysis and management.

Departures

- Carlos Tejada, Oct 31-8 Nov, on official business to SI, Washington D.C.
- José Ramón Perurena, Oct 31-15 Nov, on official business at SI, Washington D.C., followed by a short vacation.
- Francisco Rivera, Oct 31-3 Nov, to Costa Rica, to attend an Internet Training course.
- Nancy Knowlton, Nov 1-7, to Key West, FL, to attend the Biodiversity Workshop, and collect specimens for research projects.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Mercedes Arosemena and José Antonio Denis, who tied the knot on Oct 26.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Mon, Nov 1 ■ Directors, Scientific Council and Scientific Support meeting, Large Meeting Room, 9:00am.
 - Noon seminar by Heather Proctor, animal behavior candidate, Auditorium.
- Tue, Nov 2 ■ Seminar by Lisa Kealhofer, post-doc-

toral fellow, Auditorium, 5pm. There will be a late boat to BCI.

- Thu, Nov 4 ■ Noon seminar by David B. McDonald, animal behavior candidate, Auditorium.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Mon, Nov 1 ■ Special group from Arraiján celebrating *El Día del Niño*, 8:30-11:30am.
 - Children from *Policía de Balboa*, 10:00-12:30pm.
- Fri, Nov 5 ■ *Cámara Junior de Panamá*. Scheduled visit by the *XXXVIII Convención Nacional de Cámaras Junior de Panamá*.

Federal Health Plans Open Season

Temporada Abierta del Plan Médico Federal

The Federal Health Benefits Open Season runs this year from Nov 8-13 Dec. Under open season regulations, eligible employees are all the pre-treaty employees, who may enroll or change enrollment to a new Federal Employees Health Plan (FEHB), and an enrolled employee may change from self only to self and family, or any combination of these options. For more information, please contact the STRI Office of Human Resources ••• *La temporada abierta para el Plan Médico Federal este año será del 8 de noviembre al 13 de diciembre. Los empleados elegibles son los pre-tratado, quienes tendrán la opción de cambiarse de plan solo al familiar, o alguna combinación de estas opciones. Para mayor información, consulte la Oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tivoli.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Job Well Done

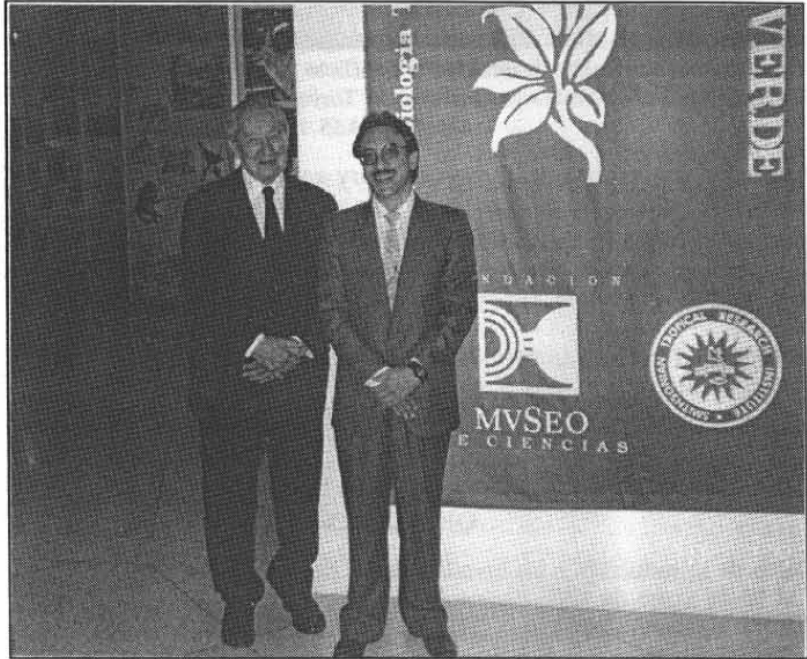
STRI wishes to congratulate Mónica Alvarado, protocol officer at the Office of External Affairs, the Visitor Services Office's staff and the Tupper Management services personnel for the organization and management of two international events hosted by STRI during the past weeks. Both the *Pole-Equator-Pole* and the *Flora Neotropica* meetings were very successful, gathering more than fifty distinguished specialists in Panama. Their comments were very positive for both their experience in Panama and STRI, and for the scientific accomplishments at the meetings.

AFCU/SI Credit Union

STRI AFCU/SI members in Panama have expressed their satisfaction with the speed by which all transactions under the new administration of Judy Smith are being proceed. The AFCU administrators at STRI encourage members to keep their accounts alive and welcome new memberships. Please contact Celideth De León at Tivoli, if application forms and/or information to apply for membership is needed.

Parting the Green Curtain Tour

STRI's Office of International Affairs has continued to sponsor the Latin American tour of the bilingual exhibition *Parting the Green Curtain*. Elena Lombardo travelled to Caracas, Venezuela, where this exhibit opened October 7th for six-months at the *Fundación Museo de Ciencias*. The *Museo* is located in *Plaza Los Caobos* in Caracas, where many other important cultural and educational institutions, such as the famous Teresa Carreño Theatre, are found. For this reason, the Plaza is visited by more than five thousand people on weekends, and at least three thousand enter the recently refurbished *Fundación Museo de Ciencias*. Officials from the Panamanian Embassy in Caracas, members of the Museum's Board of Directors and other guests attended the opening of STRI's exhibit, which was also covered by the Venezuelan educational television and the local press. The *Fundación* will host the STRI exhibit at the *Museo* through February 1994 after which the exhibit will travel for four months through other important Venezuelan cities. After Venezuela, the exhibit is scheduled to travel to Bolivia, by mid 1994.



Raul and Pedro Nass, directors of the "Fundación Museo de Ciencias" that hosted the STRI exhibit "Parting the Green Curtain" in Caracas, Venezuela, which opened Oct 7th.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Brenes, María Majela. 1993. "Un Libro Dedicado a los Bosques Tropicales." *La Prensa* Oct 20: 1B.
- Lozhkin, A.V., Anderson, P.M., Eisner, W.R., Ravake, L.G., Hopkins, D.M., Brubaker, L.B., Colinvaux, P.A. and Miller, M.C. 1993. "Late Quaternary Lacustrine Pollen Records from Southwestern Beringia." *Quaternary Research* 39: 314-324.
- Nentzog, Simon C. 1992. Intraspecific Variation in the Social and Mating Behavior of Caribbean Razorfishes (Pisces, Labridae). Ph.D. dissertation, State University of New York at Stony Brook.
- Zotz, Gerhard and Winter, Klaus. 1993. "Short-term Photosynthesis Measurements Predict Leaf Carbon Balance in Tropical Rain-Forest Canopy Plants." *Planta* 191: 409-412.

MISCELLANEOUS

Book of Remembrances

A book of remembrances on Alan Smith was started at the SI and is now at STRI. All of Alan's friends and colleagues are welcome to come and write in this book which will be sent later to Alan's parents. The book will be at the Director's Office since Monday, November 1th. Donations for the fellowship fund in his memory will also be accepted.

Scientific Illustrator

Barret Klein offers his services as scientific illustrator, especially in the field of entomology. Presently, he is working on BCI as an assistant researcher. After Dec 15 he can be reached at 120 Cambridge, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069, U.S.A.

English as a Second Language • Inglés como Segundo Idioma

The Panama Canal College (PCC) will offer a new English as a Second Language course (conversational), designed for those who would like to improve their English speaking skills. Beginning Jan 31, the course will last six weeks, Mon-Thu, 12:30-3:30pm. Interested please call PCC at 52-3107 or 52-3304 ••• El "Panama Canal College" ofrecerá un curso nuevo de Inglés como Segundo Idioma (conversación), diseñado para aquellos que deseen mejorar su inglés. El curso empieza el 31 de enero del '94, de lunes a jueves de 12:30-3:30pm por seis semanas. Interesados favor de llamar al "Panama Canal College" al 52-3107 ó 52-3304.

NEW STRI BOOKLIST

- Amazonia colombiana: diversidad y conflicto / Germán Andrade, Adriana Hurtado G., Ricardo Torres.
QH77.C7A55 1992 STRI.
- Amazonia urgent: five centuries of history and ecology: exhibition guide 1992 / Berta G. Ribeiro.
GF532.A4R48 E1992 STRI.
- Arqueología del centro-sur de Cuba / Lourdes S. Dominguez.
F1769.D66 1991X STRI.
- Biology and conservation of the monarch butterfly / edited by Stephen B. Malcolm and Myron P. Zalucki.
QL561.D3B615 1993 STRI.
- Boron hazards to fish, wildlife, and invertebrates: a synoptic review / by Ronald Eisler.
QH545.B6E36 1990 STRI.
- Curso de introducción a las investigaciones de campo: del 3 al 10 de mayo de 1992, Península Gigante, Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado. QH320.P2C97c 1992 STRI.
- The Deserts' past: a natural prehistory of the Great Basin / Donald K. Grayson. QE697.G8 1993X STRI.
- Diccionario guaymí-español-inglés / Ephraim S.J. Alphonse. Ref PM3806.A73 1987X STRI.
- Ethnohistory and archaeology: approaches to postcontact change in the Americas / edited by J. Daniel Rogers and Samuel M. Wilson. E61.E86 1993X STRI.
- Evolutionary patterns and processes / edited by D.R. Lees and D. Edwards. QH359.E935 1993 STRI.
- Free market environmentalism: a primer public policy institutes. HC110.E5F85 1992 STRI.
- From Kostenki to Clovis: upper Paleolithic Paleo-Indian adaptations / edited by Olga Soffer and N.D. Praslov. GN772.2.A1F76 1993X STRI.
- Handbook of African medicinal plants / Maurice M. Iwu. RS164.I84 1993X STRI.
- Handbook of the birds of the world, v. 1: Ostrich to Ducks / [edited by] Josep del Hoyo, Andrew Elliot, Jordi Sargatal ... [et al]. Ref QL673.H23 1992 STRI.
- Handbook of judging and exhibition / American Orchid Society. Ref SB409.A512 1991 STRI.
- An Internet primer for information professionals: a basic guide to Internet networking technology / Elizabeth Lane and Craig Summerhill. TK5105.875.I57L35 1993X STRI.
- Martín Chambi: photographs, 1920-1950.
TR647.C4628V2 1993 STRI.
- Molecular structures in biology / edited by R. Diamond ... [et al]. QP551.M63 1993X STRI.
- Natural history of the carabid beetles at the BIOLAT biological station, Río Manu, Pakitza, Perú / Terry L. Erwin. QL596.C2E73 1991 STRI.
- Nomes gerais para as aves brasileiras / Edwin O. Willis e Yoshika Oniki. QL689.B8W55 1991X STRI.
- The Physiology of flower bulbs: a comprehensive treatise on the physiology and utilization of ornamental flowering bulbous and tuberous plants / edited by August de Hertogh and Marcel Le Nard. SB425.P57 1993 STRI.
- Post-translational modifications in plants / edited by N.H. Battey, H.G. Dickinson, A.M. Hetherington. QK898.P8P67 1993X STRI.
- Pottery function: a use-alteration perspective / James M. Skibo. DS666.K3S55 1992X STRI.
- The Reptile and amphibian keeper's dictionary: an A-Z herpetology / David C. Wareham. Ref SF515.W27 1993 STRI.
- Sawfly life history adaptations to woody plants / edited by Michael R. Wagner, Kenneth F. Raffa. SB945.S3S29 1993X STRI.
- Sillagnid fishes of the world (family Sillaginidae): an annotated and illustrated catalogue of the sillago, smelt of Indo-Pacific whiting species known to date / by Roland J. McKay. Ref QL638.S54M15 1992 STRI.
- Social processes and mental abilities in non-human primates: evidences from longitudinal field studies / edited by Frances D. Burton. QL737.P9S642 1992X STRI.
- Spatial processes in plant communities: proceedings of the workshop held in Liblice, 18-22 September 1989 / edited by F. Krahulec... [et al]. QK911.S73 1990 STRI.
- A Treatise on limnology, v. 4: the zoobenthos.
QH98.H97 STRI.
- Vegetation dynamics and regeneration in seasonal tropical climates / H. Hytteborn & C. Skarpe (eds.). QK910.V42 1992 STRI.
- White ibis: wetland wanderer / Keith L. Bildstein.
QL696.C585B54 1993X STRI.

"In the eyes of Nature we are just another species in trouble" L. TIGER AND R. FOX, 1970