

# STRI newsletter

November 19, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 47

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Nov 23, noon seminar speaker will be Jeanne Zeh

*Promiscuous Females: Loose or Logical*

### Abstract

Males produce small, inexpensive sperm. Females produce large, costly eggs. Because of this sexual disparity in gamete investment, males can maximize their reproductive success by mating with many females. By contrast, females, according to conventional wisdom, gain no advantage from multiple mating and best safeguard their investment by mating with only the most attractive or highest quality male. Here, I challenge this view and present molecular genetic data on a natural population which illustrate the potential pitfalls of monogamy and indicate that reproductive benefits can accrue to females who choose to mate promiscuously.

## BAMBI

Wed, Nov 24, Bambi speaker will be Juliet Carranza, University of Costa Rica, at 7:30pm

*Neotropical Fungi*

Call BCI for transportation arrangements.

## SPECIAL

Miércoles, 24 de noviembre, 10:30 am, Cornelio Campos, del Ministerio de Salud, dictará una charla sobre el dengue, su prevención, identificación de larvas y mosquitos, y medidas para la destrucción de criaderos de larvas. Se invita a todo el personal a asistir. Lugar: Auditorio del Centro Tupper. Se ofrecerá otra charla similar en Barro Colorado próximamente.

### Behavior Discussion Group

The Behavior Discussion group will meet on Tue, Nov 30, at the Tupper Center Conference Hall from 5-7 pm. Nancy Knowlton will give a seminar on "The Origin and Maintenance of Diversity in the Sea." There are no requirements for prior reading.



The STRI community celebrated Ira Rubinoff's 20th anniversary as director of STRI, on Tue, November 9, at the Tupper Center Conference Center ••• La comunidad de STRI brindó en honor de Ira Rubinoff para celebrar su vigésimo aniversario como director del Instituto el martes 9 de noviembre, en el Salón de Conferencias del Centro Tupper. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Ian Gray and Kevin Flay, BBC, Nov 23-22 Dec, to film insects on BCI for documentary.
- Laurel Brrece, UCLA, Nov 22-Apr '94, to work with Richard Cooke in Nata.
- Manuel Guariguata, OTS, Nov 26-4 Dec, to monitor research started in 1991, on mechanic damage and recruitment of tree saplings, on BCI.

### Departures

- Vielka Chang-Yau, Nov 20-4 Dec, to Santiago, Chile, to attend the 10th International Meetings of the Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists. Then on a short vacation.
- Ira Rubinoff, Tony Coates, Jeremy Jackson and Elena Lombardo, Nov 21-23, on official business to Costa Rica and Honduras.
- Oris Acevedo, Nov 24-7 Dec, to Managua, Nicaragua, to attend the seminar "Agriculture and development" organized by the German Foundation for International Development.

### Reminder ••• Recorderis

Thursday, Nov 25 is Thanksgiving Day and a holiday for STRI ••• El jueves 25 de noviembre se celebra el día de Acción de Gracias en los Estados Unidos, y es un día libre para STRI.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Delegation of Authority

From Nov 20-4 Dec, Vielka Chang-Yau will be in Santiago Chile. During her absence, Angel Aguirre will be the Librarian in charge.

### At the Tupper Center

- Mon-Fri ■ *Segundo Taller sobre el Manejo del Manglar en Centroamérica y la Cuenca del Caribe*, sponsored by the Tinker Foundation, IN.RE.NA.RE., STRI and the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Conference Hall, 9am.
- Nov 22-26 ■ *Segundo Taller sobre el Manejo del Manglar en Centroamérica y la Cuenca del Caribe*, sponsored by the Tinker Foundation, IN.RE.NA.RE., STRI and the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Conference Hall, 9am.
- Tue, Nov 23 ■ Noon seminar by Jeanne Zeh, Auditorium.
- Wed, Nov 24 ■ *El Dengue*, by Cornelio Campos, Ministerio de Salud, 10:30 am, Auditorium.

### At the Culebra Marine Reserve

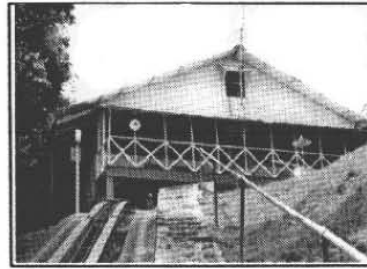
- Tue, Nov 23 *Escuela Federico Velásquez*
- Wed, Nov 24 *Escuela Federico Velásquez*
- Sat, Nov 28 *Universidad Santa María La Antigua*

### Lost and Found ••• Extraviado

A lost book from a box mailed from U.S. to David Roubik recently showed up at the Chemistry Lab in Tupper. Other such books include *The Plant Book*, by Mabberly, and *Plant Breeding Systems*, by Richard, among others. In the box was also the fiberoptic arm for a microscope light. Anybody who knows of the whereabouts of these items, please return them to David Roubik, Tupper Center ••• *Recientemente se encontró un libro que se había extraviado de una caja enviada a David Roubik desde U.S. en el Laboratorio de Química del Tupper. Dentro de la caja también se encontraban: "The Plant Book" de Mabberly y "Plant Breeding Systems" de Richard, entre otros, así como el brazo de fibra óptica de la lámpara de un microscopio. Si alguien sabe del paradero de estos objetos, favor de devolverlo a su dueño, David Roubik, en el Centro Tupper.*

### From the Mailing Office ••• Sobre Correos

Please use the World Post U.S. P.O. "Par Avion/ Air Mail" sticker for correspondence addressed to Europe or outside the continent only ••• Use el distintivo de "Par Avion/Air Mail para correo internacional fuera del continente solamente."



### Save the Old Dorm

The "Save the Old BCI Dorm" Committee will have their next meeting on Tuesday, November 30 in the Tupper Center Large Meeting Room at 2pm. Committee members are asked to attend.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Open Season - Thrift Savings Plan

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began Nov 15 and runs through Jan 31, 1994. FERS and CS employees wishing to begin, change, or re-allocate their TSP contributions should fill out form TSP-1. Employees may stop their contributions at any time. Booklets and election forms are available at the Human Resources Office. If you need more information about THRIFT, please contact Carmen Sucre or Maritza Perurena, Tivoli Building.

### Alan P. Smith Memorial Fund

Since Alan Smith's untimely death in August, several Smithsonian colleagues have established a memorial scholarship fund in his name. We encourage individuals or Offices to join us in honoring Alan's life and his dedication to tropical biology and education, by contributing to this fund. The memorial fund will be used to help fund the studies of a young Latin American biologist. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 by the end of the year in order to award a scholarship for 1994. Contributions can be sent to the Washington Office, and will be recognized in an upcoming STRI Newsletter.

### From SI, Washington D.C.

Frank Talbot, Director of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C., announced his retirement plans for April 1995, this week. Talbot decided to leave Washington and the Museum for health reasons, and requested a sabbatical leave starting April 1994 "to develop a book on coral reef management." Talbot was appointed director of the National Museum of Natural History in 1988. In his announcement to staff dated on Nov 16, Talbot acknowledged all the Museum's staff for their creativity, dedication and hard-work, during the past five years.

## CONFERENCE

### Coastal Zone Canada '94

Paper and poster submissions are being sought for Coastal Zone Canada '94, "Cooperation in the Coastal Zone." This conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from 20-23 of September 1994 and will feature paper and poster presentations, workshops and roundtable discussions in: survival and development of coastal communities; conservation of the coastal environment; communication, partnership, participation; overlapping jurisdictions; issues of access to coastal zone resources; and promotion of environmentally sound technology. Individuals wishing to submit a paper or poster to CZC '94 should send an abstract of no more than 300 words before November 30, to the Coastal Zone Canada '94 Secretariat, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4A2. Fax: (902) 429-9491.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### Harold H. Bailey Professor of Biology

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University seeks an internationally recognized scholar whose research uses modern approaches in addressing fundamental biological questions in the field of vertebrate biology. The Bailey Professor will conduct original research of high caliber and contribute to the instructional mission of the University. Interested candidates please send a curriculum vitae, a statement of anticipated future research directions, and names of three potential references to J.R. Webster, Chairman, Bailey Search Committee, Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061. Applicant evaluation will begin 1 December 1993 and will continue until the position is filled. Nominations are also welcome.

### Director of Science

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) seeks a Director of Science to lead its science and



*El pasado miércoles 11 de noviembre, la Oficina de Seguridad y la administración de STRI entregaron un fideicomiso a Veridiana Pinto, viuda del policía forestal Marcelino Castillo, quien murió en cumplimiento de su deber el año pasado. El fondo está destinado a la educación de sus dos hijos hasta terminada la secundaria.*

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

stewardship programs. The Director is responsible for all aspects of the Division including strategic and annual planning, fundraising, managing a professional staff; enhancing Conservancy systems for biological information management and the international Network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers; and collaborating with diverse domestic and international agencies and organizations on conservation issues. Requirements include: documented participation as a leader in national and international scientific and policy forums on conservation issues; understanding these issues at the ecosystem and landscape level; experience with information systems; demonstrated managerial skills; Ph.D. in the biological sciences. Interested should reply to The Nature Conservancy, International Headquarters, Human Resources Department, 1815 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209. Tel. (703) 841-5300. The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Brown University

Brown University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor or tenured Associate Professor position available July 1, 1994. Candidates must have Ph.D., potential for excellence in teaching, and

the ability to develop an independently funded, high-quality research program in the area of population/community ecology of marine or estuarine systems. They should also have expertise in statistical and/or mathematical aspects of ecology. Teaching responsibilities include a course in general ecology and an advanced course. Applicants should submit curriculum vitae including research and teaching experience, future research plans, and a list of publications, and have letter of reference sent by December 15 to D.H. Morse, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Box G-W, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island 02912.

### NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

**Marino, Paul C. and Salazar Allen, Noris.** 1993. "Tropical Epiphyllous Hepatic Communities Growing on Two Species of Shrubs in Barro Colorado Island, Panama: The Influence of Light and Microsite." *Lindbergia* 17: 91-95.

**Wolda, Henk.** 1993. "Diel and Seasonal Patterns of Mating Calls in some Neotropical Cicadas. Acoustic Interference?" *Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. v. Wetensch.* 96(3): 369-381.

**Wolda, Henk and Dennis, B.** 1993. "Density Dependence Tests, are They?" *Oecologia* 95: 581-591.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Apartment Available

3 bedroom apartment with all appliances and ceiling fans in Ave. Federico Boyd, \$650. negotiable. If Interested call the Visitor's Services Office at the Tupper Center for information.

#### De: *Alto al Robo • Protéjase*

Un hábil estafador es un actor que engaña a sus víctimas con una personalidad agradable que, aunque raras veces se da a la violencia, tiene un alto sentido de la oportunidad. Usted no podrá reconocer al estafador por su apariencia, pero sí puede estar alerta para evitar un fraude. Algunas de las modalidades más comunes del estafador son las reparaciones, inspecciones de sanidad, plagas de termitas y cucarachas, clases de baile, mercancía no pedida, doctor corazón, descubridores de talento, promotores de negocios en pirámide, compradores de oro a domicilio, etc. Desconfíe de cualquiera que no ha sido invitado a su casa. Investigue antes de invertir su dinero en cualquier negocio, y evite dar su firma a un desconocido. Enseñe a otros residentes de su casa a desconfiar de cualquiera de estas "gangas", y en general, no confíe en ningún extraño.

### NEW STRI BOOKLIST

Antarctic paleobiology: its role in the reconstruction of Gondwana / Thomas N. Taylor, Edith L. Taylor, editors.  
QE950.A57 1990X STRI.

Bivalved seashells of the Red Sea / P. Graham Oliver.  
QL430.6.O48 1992 STRI.

Birds of Europe: with North Africa and the Middle East / Lars Jonsson.  
QL690.A1J6513 1993X STRI.

Brassinosteroids: chemistry, bioactivity, and applications / Horace G. Cutler et al., editors.  
QK898.B85B73 1991X STRI.

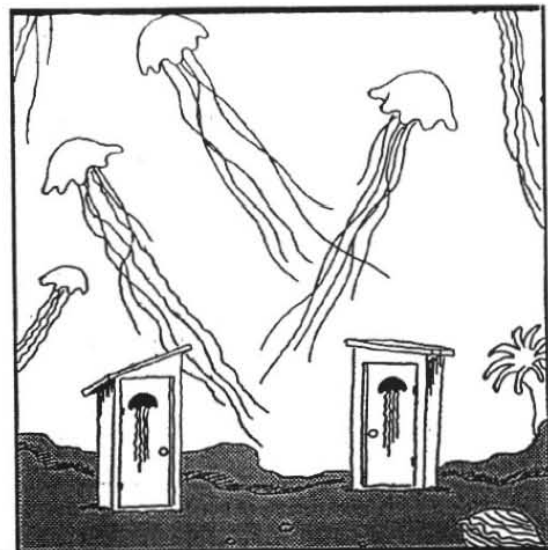
A Complete guide to the snakes of Southern Africa / Johan Marais.  
QL662.A356M29 1992 STRI.

Encyclopedia of earth system science / William A. Nierenberg, editor-in-chief.  
Ref QE5.E514 1992X STRI.

Encyclopedia of environmental information sources / edited by Sarojini Balachandran.  
Ref Z5863.P7E54 1993X STRI.

Geography through botany: a dictionary of plant names with a geographical meaning / by Gunther Kunkel.  
Ref QK96.K95g 1990 STRI.

Tropical American plant diseases (neotropical phytopathology problems) by Frederick L. Wellman.  
SB605.T7W45X STRI.



Only they know the difference.