

STRI newsletter

December 10, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 49

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, December 13, noon seminar speaker will be Francisco Ayala, University of California at Irvine

Molecular Genetics of Speciation

Abstract

Polymorphisms shared by closely related species can be used to estimate the minimum size of the founding populations. Using the available data on the polymorphisms in humans, mouse, *Drosophila*, and the Solanaceae family of plants, it can be argued that populations founding new species are usually large. It is estimated that *Homo sapiens* was founded by a population consisting of 10^4 to 10^5 individuals. This analysis contradicts the claim that modern humans derive from "Eve," a single mother of us all as well as the general theory of speciation based on the founder principle.

SPECIAL

Wednesday, December 14, seminar speaker will be Francisco Ayala, University of California at Irvine, at 5:30 pm.

Teoría Clonal de los Protozoarios Parasíticos

Resumen

Investigaciones de genética de poblaciones demuestran tres resultados con respecto a *Trypanosoma*, *Leishmania* y otros protozoarios parasíticos: 1. Su modo de propagación en poblaciones naturales es clonal, de manera que la reproducción sexual, o está completamente ausente, o es tan rara que no deja huellas en la estructura poblacional de los parásitos. 2. La diversidad genética entre los clones llega a ser muy grande, indicando que los linajes clonales han evolucionado independientemente por millones de años. 3. Algunos linajes ("clonets") son omnipresentes, aun cuando la mayoría son endémicos y con distribución geográfica reducida. Estos resultados tienen consecuencias epidemiológicas importantes.

This seminar will be in Spanish. Simultaneous translation will be available.



The STRI Procurement Office organized a get-together to honor mothers at STRI, on Tuesday, December 7, at the Tupper Center Conference Hall. In the photo, Steve Paton and Maria Josefa Villar feed their daughter Alejandra, during the ceremony ••• La Oficina de Compras de STRI preparó un brindis en honor de las madres, la tarde del martes 7 de diciembre, en el Salón de Conferencias del Centro Tupper. En la foto, Steve Paton y Maria Josefa Villar dan de comer a su hija Alejandra, durante la ceremonia. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

BAMBI

On Monday, December 13, Bambi speaker will be Seigo Higashi, Hokkaido University, Japan, at 7:30 pm.

Who Lays Eggs in the Society of Queenless Ants?

For transportation arrangements, please call BCI.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Group from Green Planet, Dec 12-16, to take photographs for the STRI brochure and other public relations publications.

Departures

- A. Stanley Rand, Dec 11-4 Jan, to Sao Paulo, Brazil, to attend the Third Latin American Congress of Herpetology, followed by a short vacation in the U.S.
- Roberto Ibáñez, Dec 11-19, to Sao Paulo, Brazil, to attend the Third Latin American Congress of Herpetology.
- Paul Colinvaux and Llewellyn Hillis, Dec 12-11 Jan, to Washington D.C., Boston and Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on official business.
- Brian Keller, Dec 13-23, to New Orleans, to attend the 9th Management Science Information Transfer meetings, and then on a short vacation.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Dec 14 ■ Noon seminar by Francisco Ayala, Auditorium.
 ■ Scientific Staff Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 1:30pm.
 Wed, Dec 15 ■ Safety Coordinators Meeting, Small Meeting Room, 11:00 am.
 ■ Seminar by Francisco Ayala, 5:30pm.
 Fri, Dec 17 ■ X'mas Party, Conference Center, 4pm.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Wed, Dec 15 *Escuela Presidente Roosevelt*
 Fri, Dec 17 *Escuela Normal de Santiago*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Educational Outreach Grants Approved

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Education and Public Service approved Educational Outreach Fund awards to the following projects:

- *Argelis Ruiz-Guevara and Cynthia Buchenroth-Martin.* From Nature to the Classroom: A Marine Science Workshop for Middle School Teachers.
- *Gregory Gilbert and Georgina de Alba.* First-Hand Understanding of Scientific Research: Development of a Prototype Field Course for Panamanian Undergraduates.

Awards for Tropical Botany

The Garden Club of America will award two \$5,000 scholarships to doctoral candidates in tropical botany. Students must be enrolled in a U.S. university Ph.D. program to be eligible, but U.S. citizenship is not required. The deadline for application is December 31. For more information, please contact Lisa Barnett at the STRI Washington office, Tel (202) 786-2817 • Fax (202) 786-2819.

Reminder ••• Recorderis



STRI traditional X'mas party will be held Dec 17 at the Tupper Conference Center from 4-10pm. Tickets for guests are available through Audrey Smith (\$2.00 for children 3-12 and \$5.00 for adults and children 13 and up). Please join us in the holidays celebration. You will enjoy it!

La fiesta tradicional de Navidad de STRI será el viernes 17 de diciembre, en el Centro de Conferencias del Tupper, de 4-10pm. Para los invitados, favor de comprar sus tiquetes con Audrey Smith (Niños 3-12 años \$2.00. Adultos y jóvenes de 13 en adelante \$5.00). Comparta con nosotros las fiestas. Habrá diversión para todos.

The World Food Prize: Invitation to Nominate

The World Food Prize is the foremost international award recognizing outstanding individual achievement in improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. The prize emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. By honoring those who have worked successfully toward this goal, The World Food Prize calls attention to what has been done to improve the world food supply and to what can be accomplished in the future. The prize recognizes achievements in any field involved in the world food supply, including food and agricultural science and technology, manufacturing, marketing, nutrition, economics, the social sciences, and other related fields. The laureate receives \$200,000 and a sculpture created by Saul Bass. The award is based solely on individual achievement with no consideration of nationality, ethnic origin, political persuasion, religious beliefs, sex, or age. Send your nomination to: The World Food Prize, Office of the Secretariat, David G. Topel, Dean, College of Agriculture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 50011. Tel. (515) 294-2518 • Fax (515) 294-9477. For the nomination procedure and more details, please visit the STRI Office of Education, Tupper Center.

MISCELLANEOUS

Missing ••• Extraviado

A bunch of keys in a black leather key ring including a Mitsubishi key and a multi-lock key lost around Tupper cafeteria or Auditorium. If found please call Helena Fortunato at Naos ••• *Un llavero de piel negra con varias llaves, entre ellas una llave de carro Mitsubishi, y una llave de puerta "multilock", perdido en los alrededores de la cafetería del Tupper y el Auditorio. El que lo encuentre, favor de llamar a Helena Fortunato, a Naos.*

Baby Car-Sit ••• Silla para Bebé

If you have a baby car-sit that you can loan or sell inexpensively, please call Kenneth Clifton at Naos ••• *Si usted tiene una silla de carro para bebé que pueda prestar o vender por poco dinero, favor de llamar a Kenneth Clifton, Naos.*

Se Vende

Mesa de centro para sala con sus mesitas de los lados en juego, totalmente de madera, \$200.00. Para información, favor de llamar a Dorita al Restaurante Corotú (ext. 357).

Coro Polifónico

Mandel's Messiah, Part I and Hallelujah by the Coro Polifónico and soloists (including Lizzy Leigh), on Tuesday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m., at the Balboa Union Church. Donation \$5 benefit Kuna children lunch programs.