



A GREAT LOSS

The tragic crash of Air Florida Flight 90 in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, January 13th ended the life of Dr. Robert Elliot Silberglied. Dr. Silberglied had been on the STRI staff since 1976. During that period he had also held a part-time position with the Museum of Comparative Zoology and was Assistant Professor of Biology at Harvard University until last year. He has been in Washington, D.C. attending the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1946, Robert Silberglied received his B.S. and M.S. from Cornell University and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1973. He was a leading authority on the study of Lepidoptera with a broad knowledge of entomology, having published during his short career 24 scientific papers. His main areas of interest were: the evolution of insect behavior, the role of ultraviolet light (visible to butterflies in insect behavior, the relationships between plants and insects, mimicry and the insects of the Galapagos Islands. With his colleague, Dr. Annette Aiello, he had for several years made intensive studies of two common tropical American butterflies that form interspecies hybrids in eastern Panama. At the time of his death, he had been studying the importance of color patterns in butterfly behavior. Though naturalists have almost universally considered the patterns as serving to permit the female to recognize males of her species, Dr. Silberglied found convincing evidence that these patterns are primarily important in the recognition of males by rival males.

Innovative, productive and a brilliant field researcher /experimentalist, Robert Silberglied had already made important contributions to tropical biology. On the personal side, Bob was warm, noble and sincere, always willing to help others with subjects ranging from academic science to the construction of apparatus. He will be remembered at STRI for many things, and the untimely ending of his life is a tragedy for biology, for the Smithsonian and for the many friends who knew and worked with him.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Silberglied
331 NW 76th Avenue
Margate, Florida 33063

SEMINAR NEWS

The seminar on Tuesday, January 19 will be given by Dr. Allison Snow, University of Massachusetts, who will speak on:

Pollination intensity and seed set: studies of passion flower and wild geranium

This will be at Ancon, 12 noon.

and

On Thursday, January 21, at 12 noon in the Naos Conference Room, Dr. Gene Montgomery will give a seminar on:

A proposed National Sea Bird Refuge on Taboga and Uraña Islands, Bay of Panama

LIBRARY NEWS

Received through Exchange Program: UN Environment Program on the Wider Caribbean Region. Issues include: State of Marine Pollution; Overview of Natural Resources for Food and Agriculture; Marine & Coastal Area Development.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Arrived this past week: Maria Elena León, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela, on an EXXON Assistantship to work with Dr. S. Rand on the Iguana Project. She will be at BCI until the end of March.

January 15 - Arriving Brián Bock and Matthew Kramer, Univ. of Tennessee, to work on the Iguana Project. They will be at BCI until March 15th.

January 18 - Leaving Mrs. Adela Gomez for Cali, Colombia on official business. She will be away for three days.

WANTED

- A used bicycle for \$50 or less. Please call Debby Hoffmaster at 56-6223.
- During the nesting season iguanas of both sexes move around a great deal and one frequently sees iguanas killed on the road. Will you please pick up and send to Ancon care of A.S. Rand, any freshly dead iguanas you encounter. Rand needs as many different animals as possible from different localities for his studies.