

# STRI newsletter

July 15, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 27

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, July 19, noon seminar speaker will be Erik D. Lindquist, Short-term fellow from the Ohio State University  
*Morphology, Behavior and Ecology of the Panamanian Golden Frog (Atelopus spp.).*

### Abstract

Field studies were conducted on *Atelopus chiriquiensis varians*, and *Atelopus zeteki*, testing the roles of acoustic and visual communication in aggression, courtship, and interspecific defense behaviors. This genus is intriguing for studies in acoustic and visual communication because in some species (some South American species) the tympanic middle ear is present and in others (the Panamanian species) it is altogether absent ("earless"). This permits a direct comparison between the behavior, physiology, morphology, and ecology of the two species types in relation to rearing capabilities. A series of auditory play-back experiments were performed in the field with *A. chiriquiensis* and *A. zeteki* in order to determine if phonotaxis is used. These studies complement laboratory work on physiological and behavioral aspects of sound localization in eared and earless *Atelopus*. In addition to the studies on communication, questions regarding status and population decline of *Atelopus zeteki*, the endangered Panamanian golden frog, were investigated for future conservation projects.

## BEHAVIOR DISCUSSION

Tuesday, July 19, the Behavior Discussion Group will meet at the Tupper Center Large Meeting Room, 4:30 p.m. Mike Ryan, University of Texas, will present a 20 minute talk followed by an informal discussion. All welcomed.

*Female Preferences for Long Dead Males*



A group of students and professors from the University of Costa Rica's Department of Agronomy visited the Tupper Center and were briefed about on-going programs, on Wed, Jul 13. They were accompanied by Luis Carlos Salazar, Dean of Agronomy of the University of Panama and Arturo Cerezo, department professor.  
(Foto: A. Montaner)

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Melvin Tyree, University of Vermont, Jul 17-15 Aug, to continue his research at STRI, on BCI.
- Jeffrey Brawn and Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey, Jul 18-15 Aug, to conduct genetic studies on an avian hybrid zone (Genus *Manacus*), at Bocas del Toro and Tupper.
- Deedra McClearn, Cornell University, Jul 19-13 Aug, to survey the mammal communities at three forested sites in the BCNM, at BCI.
- Elisabeth Kalko, NMNH, Jul 20-15 Aug, to study the echolocation and foraging behavior of neotropical bats, on BCI.

### Library Closed for 10 Days •• *Biblioteca Cerrada por 10 Días*

Due major maintenance work on the air conditioning system at the STRI Library, it will be closed from July 18-28. During this period a member of the Library will answer your calls at ext. 237. Inter-library loan service will continue as usual ••• *Debido a trabajos importantes de mantenimiento en el sistema de aire acondicionado en la Biblioteca de STRI, ésta estará cerrada del 18 al 28 de julio. Durante este período un miembro de la biblioteca contestará sus preguntas en la ext. 237. El servicio de préstamo interbibliotecario se mantendrá como de costumbre.*

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- Phillip Elliott, Eastern Connecticut State University, Jul 20-25, to investigate possibilities for research on *Cacicus cela* at STRI.
- Bettina Engelbrecht, University of Wurzburg, Jul 21-20 Aug, to study the specialization to light regime in Piper species: consequences for distribution, population dynamics and co-existence, on BCI.
- Lynette Norr, University of Illinois, Jul 21-28, to consult with Richard Cooke on a joint project: "Isotopic characterization of estuarine food fish taxa in the Bay of Parita, Central Panama".

#### Departures

- Richard Condit, Jul 18-5 Sep, to Knoxville, TN, to attend meetings of the Ecological Association of America, and take some vacation time in Michigan and California.
- Elena Lombardo, Jul 7-26, for the opening of the exhibit "Parting the Green Curtain" under the auspices of the Museo de Historia Natural La Paz, Bolivia, and to meet with officials of various institutions.
- A. Stanley Rand, Jul 22-31, to Seattle, WA, to attend the Animal Behavior Society meetings.
- Steve Paton, Jul 23-30, to Puerto Rico, to visit facilities at U.S. Geological Survey and consult with colleagues.

#### Acknowledgment

The Gorgas Army Community Hospital extended their appreciation to Annette Aiello, for her assistance in developing the booklet *Medical Services: Plants and Animals of Medical Importance in Panama*. "Dr. Aiello's editorial contributions and specialized knowledge have resulted in a publication far superior than originally expected" expressed Colonel Michael A. McConnell, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Panama.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

#### Guide to International Research and Exchanges

The Smithsonian's Office of International Relations (OIR) has recently completed an "Updated Guide to International Research and Exchanges" for the use by Smithsonian staff doing or planning to work abroad, or engaged in collaboration with colleagues from other countries. A copy of this volume which contains useful information for those of you travelling on official business is available for consultation at the STRI's Office of External Affairs and the Visitor Services Office. We hope that this publication will remind you to seek the advise and assistance of the Institution's OIR, and/or STRI's External Affairs and

Visitor Office, which serve the Smithsonian in pursuit of its international agenda.

#### A Message from the STRI-DC Office

##### *Mensaje de la Oficina de STRI en Washington*



Traveling to Washington D.C. area? The STRI-DC office receives telephone messages, faxes, mail, etc. for people visiting the Washington area, but we often cannot deliver them because we are unaware of your travel plans. If you are in the Washington D.C. area

on non-STRI business, please check with the D.C. office and leave a contact number or address. Also, when you plan to work out of the DC office, please call Barbara Casana (STRI-DC Secretary at (202)786-2817) well in advance for any assistance in arranging your schedule or other support you may need. This helps us to plan for extra space needs at our "cozy" offices. We look forward to seeing you here! ••• *¿De viaje en el área de Washington D.C.? La oficina de STRI en Washington D.C. recibe mensajes telefónicos, faxes, correo, etc. para personas que estén de visita en el área, aunque no podemos entregarlos si no sabemos de sus planes de viaje. Si usted está en Washington en asuntos que no son de trabajo, avise a la oficina de STRI y deje un número al cual lo podamos llamar o una dirección. También, si planea trabajar en la oficina de STRI en DC, llame a Barbara Casana (Secretaria de STRI-DC) al número (202) 786-2817 con suficiente antelación para poder arreglarle su itinerario u otro apoyo que necesite. Esto nos ayuda a planear también el espacio necesario en nuestras "apretaditas" oficinas. ¡Deseamos verlos a todos por acá!*

#### At the Tupper Center

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|-------------|---|---|
| Mon, Jul 18 | ■ | Insect Exhibit meeting, SMR, 2pm                      |
| Tue, Jul 19 | ■ | Noon seminar by Erik D. Lindquist, Auditorium         |
|             | ■ | Behavior Discussion Group, Large Meeting Room, 4:30pm |
| Wed, Jul 20 | ■ | Telecommunications Presentation, Auditorium, 8am.     |

All week at the Exhibit Hall: *Nuestros Bosques: Nuestra Herencia* exhibition. For guided groups, please call the STRI Office of Education, tel. 27-6022.

#### At the Culebra Marine Reserve

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|-------------|--|
| Tue, Jul 19 | <i>Instituto Pedagógico</i>            |
| Wed, Jul 20 | <i>Centro Bilingüe Vista Alegre</i>    |
| Thu, Jul 21 | <i>Centro Educativo Sócrates</i>       |
| Fri, Jul 22 | <i>Centro Infantil Generación 2000</i> |
| Sat, Jul 23 | <i>Instituto Nacional</i>              |

**At Barro Colorado Island Station**

Sat, Jul 16 Visitors from U.S., Spain and Panama and a group from ANCON.

Tue, Jul 19 *Grupo Ecologista de Penonomé*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Curso de Windows para el Personal**

En un esfuerzo por establecer un patrón sobre el uso de programas de computadoras en STRI, la Oficina de Administración de Medios de Información coordinó cursos intensivos de 8 horas del programa "Windows", al cual asistieron miembros del personal científico, administrativo, de seguridad y otros interesados en tomar el curso. Un total de 40 personas aprovecharon la oportunidad. Próximamente, se estarán brindando otros cursos, entre ellos Wordperfect 6, Dbase y Lotus. Para tal propósito, se enviarán las notas correspondientes a cada departamento para que se anoten los interesados en los cursos.

**STRI - EEC**

On July 5, Humberto Jirón Soto, Chief of Mission of Panama to the European Economic Communities visited Barro Colorado Island with Loyda Jirón, by invitation of the Office of the Assistant Director for External Affairs. Ambassador Jirón was accompanied by Elena Lombardo, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Nélide Gómez, scientist, Oris Acevedo, BCI scientific coordinator and Richard Condit, Center for Tropical Forest Sciences Coordinator. Ambassador Jirón received a briefing on the research programs and history of BCI, walked into the forest, visited the CTFS laboratory and the Gigante Peninsula. This visit will be instrumental to Ambassador Jirón for his support of STRI's proposals and programs that are presented to the EEC for funding. Recently, and with the support of Ambassador Jirón, Noris Salazar A. (STRI-University of Panama and proponent of the project for Panama) in colla-



(Photo: Oris Acevedo)

boration with S. Robert Grandstein (Ecosystems/Brussels) and Stephen P. Churchill (N.Y. Botanical Gardens) were awarded an EEC grant for the project *Bryophytes as Non-Woody Biodiversity Indicators: A Guide to the Tropical Central and South American Genera*. The guide will be published in English and Spanish, followed by a two-week workshop to be held in Panama with key botanists, conservationists and environmental educators from Central and South America ••• El 5 de julio, Humberto Jirón Soto, Jefe de la Misión de Panama ante las Comunidades Europeas (CEE), visitó BCI en compañía de Loyda Jirón, por invitación de la Oficina de Asuntos Externos. Los acompañaron Elena G. de Lombardo, Directora Adjunta de Asuntos Externos, Nélide Gómez, investigadora, Oris Acevedo, coordinadora científica de BCI y Richard Condit, coordinador del Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico (CTFS). Durante la visita, el Embajador Jirón y su acompañante recibieron información sobre los programas y la historia de BCI, recorrieron el sendero natural para visitantes, se les ofreció una explicación sobre los objetivos de CTFS y visitaron la Península de Gigante. Esta actividad permitió al Embajador Jirón familiarizarse con los programas de STRI en Panamá, facilitando de esta manera su labor de apoyo a las propuestas que se han presentado para la consideración de CEE. Recientemente, y con el apoyo de Jirón, Noris Salazar A. (STRI-Universidad de Panamá y proponente por Panamá) en colaboración con S. Robert Gradstein (Ecosystems/Bruselas) y Stephen P. Churchill (Jardines Botánicos de Nueva York), obtuvo la aprobación de fondos por parte de la CEE para el proyecto Briófitas, Indicadores No-Leñosos de Biodiversidad: Una Guía de los Géneros y Centro y Sur América Tropical. La guía será publicada en inglés y español, y posteriormente se llevará a cabo un seminario de dos semanas en Panamá con botánicos, conservacionistas y educadores en ciencias ambientales de Centro y Sur América.





Construction of laboratories, dormitories, pier and a special storage facility at BCI is scheduled to be completed in October. The photo shows the south wing of the laboratory building.  
(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

### NEW AT STRI MINI-BOOKSTORE

- *Keeping all the Pieces: Perspectives on Natural History and the Environment* by Whit Gibbons. \$20.25
- *The High Frontier: Exploring the Tropical Rainforest Canopy* by Mark W. Moffett. \$27.95
- *The Flowering Plants of the World* by V.H. Heywood. \$60
- *Las Plantas con Flores*, by V.H. Heywood. \$65
- *A Field Guide to the Families and Genera of Woody Plants of Northwest South America*, by Alwyn H. Gentry. \$36
- *Useful Plants of Neotropical Origin* by Heinz Brücher. \$145
- *The Plant-Book*, by D.J. Mabberley. \$48.50

**Suggested reading:** *Ambiente y Desarrollo: Panamá ante el Desafío Global*, by César Picón and Rodrigo Tarté. \$12.00

••Don't forget to bring your Visa and Martercard with you!

The new hours of the bookstore are from 9:30 am to 4:30pm ••

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Invitación De Néliida Gómez

La siguiente es La dirección de Néliida Gómez en Alemania. Néliida espera recibir correspondencia de sus compañeros de STRI, así como invita a todos a visitarla: Institut für Pharmazeutische Biologie der TU, Mendelssohnstrasse 1, 38106, Braunschweig, Germany • Tel. 0049-531-391-5686 Fax 0049-531-391-8104 • E-Mail n.gomez@tu-bs.de

### NEW STRI BOOKLIST

Atlas of Mesozoic and Cenozoic coastlines / Alan G. Smith et al.

G1046.C5S6 1994X STRI.

Marine phytoplankton: a guide to naked flagellates and coccolithophorids / edited by Carmelo R. Tomas.

QK934.M36 1993X STRI.

Microscopic anatomy of invertebrates, vol. 3: Platyhelminthes and Nemertinea / edited by Frederick W. Harrison & Burton J. Bogitsh.

QL363.M53 v.3 1991X STRI.

The Moss flora of Mexico, pt.1: Sphagnales to Bryales; pt.2: Orthotrichales to Polytrichales / edited by Aaron J. Sharp et al.

QK541.85.M91 1994 STRI.

Quantitative fisheries stock assessment: choice, dynamics & uncertainty / Ray Hilborn & Carl J. Walters.

SH329.F56H55 1992X STRI.

Traité de zoologie: anatomie, systématique, biologie. Tome II Infusoires ciliés, Fasc.2, systématique / Pierre-P. Grassé.

Ref QL45.T7X STRI.

*Advances in Ecological Research*, v.25, 1994.

*Advances in Genetics*, v.31, 1994.



#### Last Minute News

The Legacy proposals submittal guidelines for Fiscal Year 1995 arrived at STRI and are available at the Office of the Director and the Education Office. The deadline for submission is August 1, 1994. For FY95 the following areas are of particular interest: a) Natural Resources initiatives that include ecosystem management, protection and restoration; threatened and endangered species; neotropical migratory birds; coastal, marine, and aquatic systems; b) Cultural Resources initiatives associated with Native Americans; curation and collections managements of artifacts; properties eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, especially those related to World War II; c) Integration of Natural and Cultural Resources: planning and data management; training and awareness.