

# STRI newsletter

November 10, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 44

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, November 15, noon seminar speaker will be John Pandolfi, STRI 3-year postdoctoral fellow from the Australian Institute of Marine Science

*A paleoecological Analysis of Stability in Pleistocene Reef Coral Assemblages from Papua New Guinea*

### Abstract

Taxonomic composition and species richness of reef coral assemblages in the Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea have remained constant for 125,000 years. This is despite 10 cycles of sea level and sea surface temperatures. Local environmental parameters had greater effect than global climate and sea level changes, when it is in marked contrast to level bottom marine and terrestrial communities.



Ricardo Racines, Belkys Jiménez, Marisín Granados and Anayansi Castillo participated in a training workshop for BCI naturalists guides from Nov 5-6. The workshop was organized by Elizabeth King, Jorge Ventocilla and Oris Acevedo ••• Ricardo Racines, Belkys Jiménez, Marisín Granados y Anayansi Castillo participaron en un curso de entrenamiento para guías naturalistas de Barro Colorado del 5-6 de noviembre. El curso fue organizado por Elizabeth King, Jorge Ventocilla and Oris Acevedo. (Foto: Jorge Ventocilla)

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Lucy Dorick, Mary Jane West-Eberhard, Bill Eberhard, Olga Linares, Elizabeth Losos, Dolores Piperno, STRI, to attend the STRI Retreat to be held from Nov 16-18.
- Peter Becker, University of Brunei, Nov 13-15, to consult with Melvin Tyree, at BCI.
- Thomas Genken, University of Bonn, Germany, Nov 14-31 Mar, to work on Ola Finke and Heike Hadry's project on damselflies, on BCI.
- Bettina Webber, University of Wurzburg, Germany, Nov 15-15 Jan, to work with Gerhard Zotz, on BCI.
- Ingrid Kaipf, University of Tuebingen, Germany, Nov 17-11 Dec, to work with Elizabeth Kalko, on BCI.

### Departures

- Vielka Chang-Yau, Nov 18-30, to Porto Alegre, Brazil, to attend the 29th General Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Interamerican Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists.

### On Leave

Gloria Maggiori will be taking leave during December. Anyone planning to travel between Dec 1-15 Jan, please see her regarding arrangements, as soon as possible.

### Condolences ••• Condolencias

To all relatives and friends of Roque Viera, who died on Thursday, Nov 3. Roque was a former STRI fellow and also worked as laboratory technician with Dolores Piperno ••• A todos los parientes y amigos de Roque Viera, quien murió el jueves 3 de noviembre. Roque fue becario de STRI y trabajaba como técnico de laboratorio con Dolores Piperno.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### The Torch Wants to Hear from You

Have you recently received an award, given a talk, written a book, appeared on national television, or participate in some other event that you think should be mentioned in the Smithsonian staff newspaper, *The Torch*? Are you currently doing research or participating in a Smithsonian program that you would like the rest of the Smithsonian staff to know

about? Do you have suggestions for stories you would like to see in *The Torch* or want to send a letter to the editor? You can now transmit your ideas, information, comments and want adds to *The Torch* via OfficeVision. To reach us simply type "Torch" at the "Send to" line on your OfficeVision Send a Note screen. If you are not on the OfficeVision system, the Torch can also be reached via Internet at Torch@Sivm.si.edu. Please include your work phone number in the message. (With want adds please include both office and home telephone numbers with area codes). We welcome all suggestions but can make no guarantees that what you send us will appear in print. Every submission will be considered by *The Torch* editors.

### Federal Health Plans Open Season

#### *Temporada Abierta de los Planes Médicos Federales*

The Federal Health Benefits Open Season runs this year from Nov 14-12 Dec, 1994. Under Open Season regulations, eligible employees are all U.S. and pre-treaty employees who may enroll or change enrollment to a new Federal Employees Health Plan, and enrolled employees 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 planes médicos federales este año será del 14 de noviembre al 12 de diciembre. Los empleados elegibles son los de nacionalidad norteamericana y los pre-tratado de cualquier nacionalidad estadounidense y los pre-tratado de cualquier nacionalidad, quienes tendrán la opción de cambiarse de plan, o cambiarse de empleado solo a plan familiar, o alguna combinación de estas opciones. Para mayor información, favor consultar con la Oficina de Recursos Humanos de STRI.*

### Thrift Saving Plan Open Season Reminder

Just a reminder that the Thrift Savings Plant (TSP) Open Season starts on November 15 and ends on January 31, 1995. For eligible employees, Open Season is the change to start or change contributions to TSP accounts. Open Season supplies will be received at the Office of Human Resources shortly. For information, please call Carmen Sucre at Tivoli, ext 223 or 27-3174.

### At the Tupper Center

- Tue, Nov 15
- Briefing for Minister of Education, Auditorium, 10am.
  - Noon seminar by John Pandolfi, AUD
  - Anglo-American Society Meeting, Auditorium, 7pm.

### Prueba de Chagas para Residentes de Gamboa

Aquellos que sientan que necesitan la prueba del Chagas, ésta se llevará a cabo gratis en BCI el lunes 14 de noviembre. Los interesados deberán tomar la primera lancha de la mañana a la Isla.

### At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Nov 15 Instituto Enrico Fermi  
 Wed, Nov 16 Colegio Infantil Saint George  
 Thu, Nov 17 Escuela San Cristobal  
 Fri, Nov 18 Escuela Sara Sotillo  
 Escuela Victoriano Chacón, Chorrera  
 Sat, Nov 19 Departamento de Historia, Univ. de Panamá  
 Escuela de Biología, Universidad de Panamá

### At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Nov 12 University of Panama • Ecology Class  
 APROREMAR • Biology Students  
 Sun, Nov 13 Visitors from Panama and the U.S.  
 Sat, Nov 19 Guests from Biblioteca Nacional  
 Fort Clayton Recreation Center  
 Sun, Nov 20 Visitors from Panama

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Scholarly Studies Program Awards • Summer 1994

**Anthony Coates:** "The Bocas del Toro Section: Stratigraphic Precision as a Key to Understanding Climatic and Biotic Change"

**Nancy Knowlton:** "Diversity of Corals and Their Symbiotic Algae: Host-Symbiont Specificity and Stability."

**Stanley Rand:** "Phylogeny and the Evolution of Communication in the Frogs of the Genus *Physalaemus*"

### Culture and Biological Diversity: Past, Present and Future

*Tucson, Arizona, March 15-17, 1995*

The Arizona State Museum and the University of Arizona will sponsor the Society of Ethnobiology Eighteenth Annual Conference to be held in Tucson, Arizona, on March 15-17, 1995. The conference's major theme will be "Culture and Biological Diversity: Past, Present and Future. For further information please contact Suzanne K. Fish, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721. Tel. (602)621-2556 • Fax (602) 621-2976 • E-Mail Archaeo@arizrvax.

### Emergency Phone Numbers

Alejandro Arze	26-2475
Pablo Amarís	62-4568
Harry Barnes	23-2941
José Ramón Perurena	69-8428
In case nobody answers at these number please call 27-6014 at Tupper after working hours. The guard will be able to get in touch by radio with the appropriate authority.	

## From the Office of Human Resources • *De la Oficina de Recursos Humanos*

*Life and let live is not enough;  
live and help live is not too much.*

*Vivir y dejar vivir no es suficiente;  
Vivir y ayudar a vivir no es demasiado.*

### Heimlich Maneuver —Hug of Life

You've just joined your friends for lunch in the cafeteria. One of your friends is telling his latest jokes. As everyone bursts out laughing, you happen to glance over at your neighbor. You see her clutch convulsively at her throat, a panic-stricken loon on her face. Seconds later, without uttering a sound, she collapses.

She is shocking. You have four minutes to act. A person choking on food can suffocate and die within those four minutes. Would you know to save this person's life?

No doubt you've heard of the Heimlich Maneuver, but do you know how to practice this lifesaving hug? It not, learn today:

- See if the victim can talk. While a heart attack victim can speak, at least initially, choking victims can't speak, will turn blue, and then collapse. So act quickly.
- If the choking victim is standing or sitting, step behind him/her and wrap your arm around his/her waist. Let his arms, head and torso hang forward.
- Make a fist with one of your hands. Place it against the victim's abdomen, with thumb facing inward —just above the navel but below the rib cage.
- Grasp the fist with your other hand and press it into the victim's abdomen with a forceful upward thrust. The expelled breath will dislodge the choking material from the victim's air passageway.
- Repeat the procedure several times if necessary. If the victim is lying on his/her back, face him and kneel over his/her hips. Place one hand over the other, with the heel of the bottom hand on the abdomen just above the navel but below the rib cage. Press your hands into the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Repeat as many times as is necessary.

Don't wait until it's too late. Learn the Heimlich Maneuver Today.

### La Maniobra Heimlich —El Abrazo de la Vida

Usted acaba de sentarse con sus amigos para almorzar en la cafetería. Uno del grupo comienza a contar sus últimos chistes. Cuando todos rompen a reír, Ud. mira por casualidad a su vecina. Ve que se lleva las manos convulsivamente a la garganta, con una expresión de pánico en el rostro. Segundos más tarde, sin proferir un sonido, se desploma.

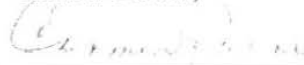
Se está ahogando. Ud cuenta con cuatro minutos. Durante estos minutos la persona puede asfixiarse y morir. ¿Sabe Ud. cómo se podría salvar la vida de esta persona?

Sin duda Ud. habrá oído sobre la Maniobra Heimlich, pero ¿sabe como aplicar este abrazo que salva vidas? Si no lo sabe, apréndalo hoy:

- Vea si la víctima puede hablar. En un ataque al corazón, la víctima puede hablar inicialmente, las de asfixia no, se ponen azules y se desploman. Hay que actuar rápidamente.
- Si la víctima esta de pie o sentada, colóquese detrás poniendo su brazo alrededor de su cintura. Deje que sus brazos, cabeza y torso cuelguen hacia el frente.
- Haga un puño con una de sus manos. Colóquelo sobre el abdomen de la víctima con el pulgar hacia adentro —arriba del ombligo y debajo de la caja torácica.
- Agarre el puño con la otra mano y presione contra el abdomen de la víctima, empujando con fuerza hacia arriba. El aire expulsado despejará el material que está obstruyendo el paso del aire en el cuerpo de la víctima.
- Repita el procedimiento tantas veces como sea necesario. Si la víctima está de espaldas, colóquese de frente y arrodíllese sobre sus caderas. Ponga una mano sobre la otra, y coloque la parte inferior de la mano que queda abajo sobre su, arriba del ombligo y debajo de la caja torácica. Presione sus manos sobre el abdomen de la víctima con un rápido movimiento hacia arriba. Repita cuantas veces sea necesario.

No espere hasta que sea demasiado tarde. Aprenda a aplicar la Maniobra Heimlich hoy.

*Hasta la Próxima,*



**New Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Officer**

The SEM facility at the Tupper Center is being administered by Raineldo Urriola. Please contact him for reservations ••• *El nuevo administrador del microscopio electrónico de barrido (SEM) es Raineldo Urriola. Favor de ponerse en contacto con él para reservar el uso de éste.*

**POSITION AVAILABLE AT STRI**

Applications for Security Specialist will be accepted immediately. Responsibilities are providing round-the-clock security and protection of facilities, which include extensive forested areas in the Canal area, offices in Panama, research locations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts; and providing guidance and technical assistance in establishing and maintaining efficient security operations responsive to the needs of STRI. The candidate must have at least one year of experience equivalent to a GS-7 level and directly related to the above line of work. Bilingual (English-Spanish). Must have knowledge of basic security principles, methods and investigative techniques, as well as use and control of fine arms under laws of Panama. Successful applicant must be physically capable of periodic nighttime patrol in rain forest areas. This is a permanent, federal, full-time position. Salary between \$22,717 and \$27,789 per year. Send curriculum vitae and recent references to: Office of Human Resources, STRI, P.O. Box 3353, Balboa, Ancon, Panamá.

**NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS**

- Adler, Gregory H. 1994. "Tropical Forest Fragmentation and Isolation Promote Asynchrony Among Populations of a Frugivorous Rodent." *Journal of Animal Ecology* 63: 903-911.
- Cochard, H., Ewers, F.W. and Tyree, Melvin T. 1994. "Water Relations of a Tropical Vine-like Bamboo (*Phipidocladum racemiflorum*): Root Pressures, Vulnerability to Cavitation and Seasonal Changes in Embolism." *Journal of Experimental Botany* 45(277): 1085-1089.
- Eberhard, William G. 1993. "Evaluating Models of Sexual Selection: Genitalia as a Test Case." *The American Naturalist* 142(3): 564-571.
- Minckley, Robert L., Wcislo, William T., Yanega, Douglas and Buchmann, Stephen L. 1994. "Behavior and Phenology of a Specialist Bee (*Dieunomia*) and Sunflower (*Helianthus*) Pollen Availability." *Ecology* 75(5): 1406-1419.
- Nedvěd, Oldrich and Windsor, Donald. 1994. "Supercooling Ability, Fat and Water Contents in a Diapausing Tropical Beetle, *Stenotarsus rotundus* (Coleoptera: Endomychidae)." *European Journal of Entomology* 91: 307-312.

**Maria Lorena Cabrera: Ten Years of Service**

Last week Maria Lorena Cabrera received a ten-year pin for services at STRI. She started working at the Institute on Oct 1, 1984 as the Tivoli receptionist. She worked also for a few months at the director's office, and in 1985 she began working Elena Lombardo's assistant. In 1988 she was promoted to the position of Accounting Technician under the supervision of Carlos Urbina. Maria Lorena feels that working in various STRI departments has enabled her to experience the various kinds of support required to carry out STRI's mission. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

**MISCELLANEOUS****Misa de Novenario por el Alma de Roque Viera**

Con motivo de la reciente muerte de Roque Viera, sus amigos invitan a todo el personal docente, administrativo y al estudiantado en general, a la Misa de Novenario que se oficiará el domingo 13 de noviembre a las 6pm, en la Iglesia de la Señora del Perpetuo Socorro.

**Library Closes on Nov 12****Se Cierra la Biblioteca el 12 de Noviembre**

Since Fri 11 is the commemoration of Veterans's Day, and a Holiday for STRI the Library will remain closed on Sat, Nov 12 to allow its personnel a long week end ••• *El viernes 11 se conmemora el día del Soldado Caído en los Estados Unidos y no hay trabajo para STRI. La biblioteca permanecerá cerrada el sábado 12 de noviembre para permitir a su personal un fin de semana largo.*