

STRI newsletter

November 18, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 45

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No seminar scheduled for Tuesday, November 22.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Ola Fincke, University of Oklahoma, Nov 23-29, to study the effects of male and female behavior of offspring survivorship in a tree-hole breeding damselfly, on BCI.
- Jorgen Hartnack, Denmark's Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development, and Veit Koester, Head of Division of the Danish National Forest and Nature Agency of the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy, Nov 22-26, to visit STRI facilities and get acquainted with the Institute's research activities.

Departures

- Elizabeth Losos, Nov 19-24, and Elena Lombardo, Nov 19-24, to Quito, Ecuador, to consult with officials at the PUCE regarding the Yasuny Station.
- Olga F. Linares, Nov 22-6 Dec, to Washington D.C. for official business at the Smithsonian Institution and to Atlanta, GA, to attend the meetings of the American Anthropological Association.

Nuestras Condolencias

A Basilio Mela, guardabosques de Barro Colorado, cuyo padre murió la semana pasada.

Wishes to Hear from Us

Sylvia Churgin, who served as acting Library Director at STRI for some time, retired this year. Now she is working as a volunteer in the Botany Department of the NMNH and has a her own ID number for E-mail: MNHBO088-SIVM. She is looking forward to receiving news from her friends at STRI.



Angel Aguirre, Elizabeth Sánchez, Eleuterio Santos and Ricardo Beteta (not in the photo) from the Library staff received certificates and cash awards for all their efforts during the library move to the annex. Anthony Coates and Vielka Chang-Yau presented them with the awards ••• Angel Aguirre, Elizabeth Sánchez, Eleuterio Santos y Ricardo Beteta (no aparece en la foto) recibieron certificados y premios en efectivo por todos sus esfuerzos durante la mudanza de la biblioteca al nuevo anexo. Anthony Coates y Vielka Chang-Yau hicieron las entregas.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

STRI Christmas Party ••• Fiesta de Navidad de STRI

Director Ira Rubinoff announced that the STRI Christmas Party will take place on Friday, December 16 at the Tupper Center. A committee for the arrangements of the party has already been formed. The contest for the "most original" Christmas tree between facilities will again take place this year. Please get in touch with your facility's secretary for more information ••• El Director Ira Rubinoff anunció que la fiesta de Navidad de STRI se llevará a cabo el viernes 16 de diciembre en el Centro Tupper. Un comité de empleados ha sido formado para los arreglos de la fiesta. El concurso del árbol de Navidad "más original" entre las instalaciones de STRI se llevará a cabo este año también. Favor de ponerse en contacto con la secretaria de su estación de trabajo para mayor información.

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Thu, Nov 24 is the celebration of Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. and a Holiday for STRI ••• El jueves 24 de noviembre es la celebración del Día de Gracias en los Estados Unidos y es un día libre para STRI.

Combined Federal Campaign

Campaña Federal Combinada

We have just been informed that the Smithsonian Combined Federal Campaign for 1994 has been extended to December 9, 1994, in order to allow more time to successfully meet the challenge of raising the original goal of \$250,000. The CFS is provided as a service to Smithsonian Employees so that annual charitable giving is convenient and efficient. We hope that the STRI staff will seriously consider giving something. We need your commitment and attention to meet or exceed the Smithsonian goal. Will you please give to the CFC? All interested employees should contact the Office of Human Resources to complete the necessary pledge cards ••• *Nos acaban de informar que la Campaña Federal Combinada del Smithsonian para el año de 1994 ha sido prorrogada hasta el 9 de diciembre de 1994, con el propósito de tratar de llegar a la meta original de \$250,000. La CFC se brinda como un servicio a los empleados del Smithsonian para que las donaciones anuales se puedan hacer de forma conveniente y eficiente. Esperamos que los empleados de STRI consideren seriamente la posibilidad de participar. Necesitamos de su compromiso y su consideración para llegar o exceder la meta del Smithsonian. Haga su donación a la CFC. Los empleados interesados deberán comunicarse con la Oficina de Recursos Humanos para llenar los formularios necesarios.*

At the Tupper Center

Wed, Nov 23 ■ General Scientific Support Staff Meeting, LMR, 1:30pm

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

Tue, Nov 22 *Escuela José María Barranco*
 Wed, Nov 23 *Escuela José María Barranco* and the Marine Traffic Center (PCC) at 2:30pm
 Fri, Nov 25 *Colegio José A. Remón Cantero (Club de Ciencias)* and *Escuela de Química, Universidad de Panamá*, at 10am.
 Sat, Nov 26 *Colegio Episcopal San José de la Chorrera.*

At the Barro Colorado Island Station

Sat, Nov 19 *ACUPAN*, group from the National Library, and visitors from the U.S.
 Sun, Nov 20 Visitors from Panama City
 Sat, Nov 26 Groups from *Colegio La Salle* and *ANCON*
 Sun, Nov 27 Visitors from Panama City.

FEHB Comparison Guide

In the Spring of 1994, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) surveyed a representative group of federal employees to ask their views about the FEHB Compari-

son Guide, as well as their actions during the last year's Open Season. Over 70 percent of the employees responded that they did not even consider making a change during Open Season. Although 86 percent said they received the Guide, only 40 percent said it was important to have the Guide distributed to each individual. As a result of the survey and in the spirit of "reinventing government", OPM has decided that the 1995 FEHB Guide be made available to each employee rather than be distributed to each employee in a effort to conserve resources. The Guide will be available for STRI federal employees at the Human Resources Office, Tivoli.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From AFCU ••• *Del "Credit Union"*

Judy Smith now has a direct fax number in her office: (202)786-2318. But, to withdraw money from your accounts use only the fax number (202)479-3877 ••• *Judy Smith tiene un nuevo número de fax en su oficina: (202)786-2318. Pero para retirar dinero de sus cuentas, use únicamente el (202)786-2318.*

New George E. Burch Fellow

Secretary Heyman selected Dr. Pedro E. León Azofeifa, Professor of Physiology at the University of Costa Rica as the George E. Burch Fellow in Theoretic Medicine and Affiliated Sciences. This fellowship was designed to honor Dr. Burch by encouraging and supporting creative research which possesses a potential benefit to the health and condition of humankind. According to Heyman, León Azofeifa's "research on the evolution of regulatory gene clusters in vertebrates is ground breaking and promises new insights in the field of evolutionary-development biology." León Azofeifa will be working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Programa de Postgrado en Ecología y Conservación

La Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Tecnología de la Universidad Santa María La Antigua anuncia sus nuevos programas de Curso de Especialización (tres semestres) y de Maestría en Ciencias (cinco semestres) en Ecología y Conservación abiertos a profesionales de todas las ramas, interesados en calificarse formalmente en las materias ecológicas o ambientalistas, o que laboren en aspectos relevantes a estas áreas. Fecha de preinscripción: del 1-18 de noviembre; presentación de documentación: del 21 al 30 de noviembre. Para mayor información favor de ponerse en contacto con Luis Wong Vega o Julio Calderón a los tels. 36-1311 ó 36-1868, ext. 222 o 234.

Place	Date	Time
Tivoli, room 419	25/Nov	1:30 p.m.-2:30 pm
	25/Nov	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
	29/Nov	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
	29/Nov	3:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Naos, Conference Room	23/Nov	8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
	23/Nov	10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
	28/Nov	8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
	28/Nov	10:00 am.-11:00 am.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Andrews, Robin M. and Stamps, Judy A.** 1994. "Temporal Variation in Sexual Size Dimorphism of *Anolis limifrons* in Panama." *Copeia* 1994(3): 613-622.
- Bush, Mark B. and Colinvaux, Paul A.** 1994. "Tropical Forest Disturbance: Paleocological Records from Darien, Panama." *Ecology* 75(6): 1761-1768.
- Choe, J.C.** 1994. "Ingenious Design of Tent Roots by Peter's Tent-Making Bat, *Uroderma bilobatum* (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae)." *Journal of Natural History* 28: 731-737.
- González, A.G., Moujir, L., Bazzocchi, I.L., Correa, Mireya D. and Gupta Mahabir P.** 1994. "Screening of Antimicrobial and Cytotoxic Activities of Panamanian Plants." *Photomedicine* 1: 149-153.
- Inoue, T., Suka, T. and Roubik, David W.** 1994. "Effects of Worker Reproduction on Systems of Kin Recognition in Stingless Bees." [Abstract]. In: *Les Insectes Sociaux 12th Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects IUSI*: 21, edited by Alain Lenoir, Gérard Arnold and Michel Lepage. Paris: Publications Université Paris Nord.
- Nieh, J. and Roubik, David W.** 1994. "Food Recruitment in the Stingless Bee, *Melipona Eburnea*: Communicating Location Without a Scent Trail." In: *Les Insectes Sociaux 12th Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects IUSI*: 23, edited by Alain Lenoir, Gérard Arnold and Michel Lepage. Paris: Publications Université Paris Nord.
- Olson, David M.** 1994. "The Distribution of Leaf Litter Invertebrates Along a Neotropical Altitudinal Gradient." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 10: 129-150.
- Pope, Cynthia L.** 1994. "Preliminary Analysis of Small Chert Tools and Related Debitage at Caracol, Belize." In: *Studies in the Archaeology of Caracol, Belize*: 148-156, edited by Diane Z. Chase and Arlen F. Chase. San Francisco: Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute, Monograph 7.
- Roubik, David W.** 1994. "Behavior and Evolution of *Trigona*" [Abstract]. In: *Les Insectes Sociaux 12th Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects IUSI*: 18, edited by Alain Lenoir, Gérard Arnold and Michel Lepage. Paris: Publications Université Paris Nord.
- Roubik, David W.** 1994. "Robber Bees as Army Ants." [Abstract]. In: *Les Insectes Sociaux 12th Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects IUSI*: 201, edited by Alain Lenoir, Gérard Arnold and Michel Lepage. Paris: Publications Université Paris Nord.
- Salazar Allen, Noris.** 1994. "*Syrrhopodon simmondsii* New to Panama and Central America." *The Bryologist* 97(3): 325.
- Sommeijer, M.J. and Roubik, David W.** 1994. "Behavioural Ecology of Stingless Bees (Apidae, Meliponinae)." [Abstract]. In: *Les Insectes Sociaux 12th Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects IUSI*: 17, edited by Alain Lenoir, Gérard Arnold and Michel Lepage. Paris: Publications Université Paris Nord.
- Thaker, Robert W.** 1994. "Volatile Shell-Investigation Cues of Land Hermit Crabs: Effect of Shell Fit, Detection of Cues from Other Hermit Crab Species, and Cue Isolation." *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 20(7): 1457-1482.

MISCELLANEOUS

From the Accounting Office

The book *Disease and Demography in the Americas*, edited by John W. Verano and Douglas H. Ubelaker, arrived at STRI without the name of the person who asked for it. The owner of the book must get in contact with Fernando Oglivie at the Accounting Office, Tivoli Building, to pick up his/her book.

De los Amigos de la Residencia Brisas del Mar

Miembros de la Residencia Brisas del Mar, dedicada a personas de la Tercera Edad, invitan a todo el personal de STRI a su Bazar de Navidad, donde habrán arreglos navideños y manualidades para toda la familia, el día sábado 3 de diciembre, de 10am-2pm. Brisas del Mar se encuentra camino a Veracruz, antes de Playa Kobbe.

Last Minute News ••• Al Cierre

The Bridge of Frijoles on Pipeline Road has been repaired and can be used again. We appreciate the patience of all users during its repair ••• *El Punte de Frijoles en el Camino del Oleducto ya fue reparado y puede usarse nuevamente. Apreciamos la paciencia de los usuarios durante el período de la reparación.*



RESEARCH UPDATE

The RV "Urracá" (left) weighed anchor for the first time on a scientific field trip to Bocas del Toro (right) from Nov 3-15, to start a series of trips by members of the Panama Paleontology Project (PPP). That will establish the geologic section at Bocas del Toro as the most complete and well dated record of the last ten million years in the Western Caribbean. This new initiative is funded by a Scholarly Studies Grant to Anthony Coates and represents a continuation of Coates and Jeremy Jackson's work on the paleoecological and evolutionary consequences of the closure of the Isthmus of Panama. The new study's principal investigators are Coates, Marie-Pierre Aubry, William Bergren and Donald McNeill. The boat sailed with Coates, McNeill, Jackson, Pamela Borne, Susan Kidwell and Mary M.R. Best. The PPP began in 1986 as an international, multidisciplinary study of the timing, magnitude and nature of the Pliocene emergence of the Isthmus of Panama. It entails geological and collecting expeditions, processing of standardized samples for microfossils (benthic and

planktic foraminifera, ostracodes and nannofossils) and macrofossils (corals, mollusks and bryozoans), age assignments and paleodepths based on microfossils, sorting and curation of fossils for taxonomic, systematic, ecological and evolutionary study and maintenance of an inclusive stratigraphic and taxonomic database. Like the deep sea drilling program, PPP offers exceptional potential to address basic paleobiological and paleoclimatological questions because of its regional scale; standardized stratigraphic methodology and sampling design; comprehensive database; and abundance of taxonomically consistent, multiphyletic, time-constrained taxa that traverse a series of well defined environmental events.

(Photos by A. Montaner)

New Communication System at STRI

We have completed the testing period of Novell GroupWise also known as WordPerfect Office, an office automation and communications system. This system will allow you to view incoming and outgoing mail, view and manage your schedule and personal assignments, and send mail, appointments, tasks, notes and phone messages to other users. GroupWise is a windows based menu system that is easy to use. GroupWise also lets you send messages to users in the Internet. This system is already available in Tupper/Tivoli and Naos LANs. An introductory one-hour class will be taught. This introductory class will only include DOS environment. Future classes will include Windows and Mackintosh environment. If you would like to attend one of these courses call Fernando Bouche or Carlos Muñoz (at 27-6022 ext. 238). The classes will be scheduled as follows:

Place	Date	Time
Tivoli, room 419	22/Nov	1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
	22/Nov	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.