



## STRI NEWSLETTER

February <sup>#8</sup>26, 1982

### SCIENTIFIC STAFF MEETING

The monthly scientific staff meeting will be on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. in the NAOS Conference Room. Prompt attendance will be greatly appreciated.

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### SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar on Tuesday, March 2nd, will be given by Dr. N. Wheelright, University of Washington, who will speak on:

Ecological and Evolutionary  
Consequences of Kliban's Law

PLEASE NOTE: Since work of renovating the Ancon Conference Room will begin March 1st, the luncheon seminar will be held in the Gorgas Memorial Conference Room, Building 265, Gorgas Road, at 12 noon, as usual. Due to the construction work at Ancon, Dr. Dressler's slide show "Halfway around Australia and two weeks in Malaysia: A Biological travelogue" originally scheduled for Thursday, March 4 will be postponed until further notice.

### LIBRARY NEWS

The DIALOG Guide to searching on-line its more than two hundred data bases has arrived in the Library and is available at the Librarian's desk for consultation. At present, DIALOG's service goes to customers throughout North America including Mexico, Europe, Australia and Japan. The STRI Library plans call for direct on-line communication after the move to the new building. At present, secondary service is provided through the Smithsonian Institution Libraries in Washinton. With the DIALOG guide at hand, questions can be more exactly formulated to achieve accurate and complete responses.

### ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Expected to arrive during the coming week: LISSY COLEY AND TOM KURSAR, University of Chicago, for 6 months, to work on their Smithsonian Postdoctoral Projects on BCI.

KEENAN SMART, from the BBC, and MERLIN TUTTLE, from the Milwaukee Public Museum, to film the batfrog relationship for "Wildlife on One" produced by the BBC.

Leaving this week: MARY HAGEDORN, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, after spending several months at STRI.

### GRANT AWARDED

We are pleased to announce that the National Geographic Society has awarded a grant of \$3,300 to Dr. Annette Aiello to support her life history studies of Neotropical Lepidoptera

### PHONE REPAIRED ON BCI

The number (2)52-2142, is the telephone line that is working now on Barro Colorado Island. The number (2)52-2124 is out of order.

### LOSS TO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

Dr. Reina Torres de Araúz, Director of Panama's PATRIMONIO HISTORICO died after a prolonged battle against cancer.

### AFRICANIZED HONEYBEE IN PANAMA

STRI's Dr. David Roubik has confirmed the previously unverified reports of Africanized honeybees in Santa Fe, Darien. Evidence was recently obtained through the cooperation of Dr. Luis Cigarruista, Director of COPFA, who has collaborated with Dr. Roubik since 1980 to monitor the arrival of the Africanized honeybees. The Panamanian Ministries of Agriculture and Health have also collaborated in Roubik's studies which began in 1979. Migratory swarms of the honeybee were sighted near Santa Fe by a local beekeeper, Mr. Alberto Silva, who had captured two colonies for observation. Both the bees and cell size in honeycombs of their nests were substantially smaller than those of the common European honeybee, demonstrating that the bees were Africanized. Recent reports of the bees in Pacora, Panama Province are erroneous.

African honeybees are not destructive or malicious, but they can fiercely defend their colonies when disturbed. All colonies are potentially dangerous and should not be provoked but reported to the civic authorities. Once disturbed, a colony of Africanized bees remains extremely sensitive to further disturbance for hours or even days. A great deal of misinformation, both positive and negative, has been published on the Africanized honeybee. Individual colonies vary greatly in behavior, but virtually all colonies periodically become far more aggressive than those of the common honeybees. Furthermore, in contrast to European honeybees in tropical countries, Africanized bees reproduce during most of the year, establish wild colonies virtually everywhere and migrate sometimes traveling many kilometers in swarms. The migratory swarms are not aggressive unless disturbed. During 25 years in South America, the Africanized honeybees have spread at the rate of 250-500 kilometers per year. The bees are not tourists but become permanent residents for which there is no conceivable means of eradication, and the general public, and beekeepers in particular, must learn to live with them.