

STRI newsletter

August 4, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 31

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, August 8, seminar speaker will be Bruce (Lock) Rogers, University of Kentucky, at 3:30pm.

Tradeoffs in Life History Components and Alternative Lifehistory Strategies

Abstract

I measured individual growth and reproductive rates for several hundred females of the bluehead wrasse (*Thalassoma bifasciatum*) in order to detect alternative life history strategies in this species. *T. bifasciatum* exhibits protandrous (female to male) sex change, with successful "terminal phase" males living a daily reproductive rate 20-30 times greater than "initial phase" females. I predicted that this extreme increase in reproductive potential with increased size might lead some females to forego egg production (i.e., reproduction as females) in order to maximize their growth rates, and thus their likelihood of reaching the terminal phase. I have found that while individual females appear to allocate differently to growth and reproduction, a total cessation of reproduction along with very high growth rates does not appear to occur. Additionally, I have found that as females grow older and larger they appear to invest a lower proportion of their resources to reproduction. This would seem to contradict life history theory which predicts an increase in reproductive effort with age. However, due to the shape of the curve of reproductive rate on age, this result is exactly what theory predicts.

NAOS LAB LUNCHEON

Friday, August 11, Naos Marine Lab luncheon speaker will be Irby Lovette, University of Pennsylvania

A Molecular Investigation of the Avian colonization of Barbados



On Tue, Aug 1, the Organizing Committee of the 8th International Coral Reefs Symposium to be held in Panama next year, officially installed the local support Sub-Committees of the congress. Many Panamanian government representatives as well as other NGO's attended and expressed their interest to collaborate with the UDP and STRI in this international scientific event. In the photo, Maria Magela Brenes, manager of the symposium, addresses to the public ••• El martes 1 de agosto, el Comité Organizador del VIII Congreso Internacional de Arrecifes Coralinos que se llevará a cabo en Panamá en 1996, instaló oficialmente los Sub-Comités de apoyo local al congreso. Un número plural de representantes del gobierno panameño y de ONGs expresaron su interés en colaborar con la UDP y STRI, en este evento científico internacional. En la foto, María Magela Brenes, coordinadora del simposio, se dirige al público. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- L. Williams, F. Raimond and M. Centofanti, Soundput Radio Series, Aug 6-10, to interview E. Allen Herre.
- Eleven students from OTS, Tropical Biology Course No. 95-3, Aug 7-10, to visit BCI as a post-course activity, to learn about on-going projects.
- Rachel Lee, STRI Short-term fellows from the University of Utah, Aug 7-7 Nov, to study the herbivore, outcrossing and intraspecific chemical variation in tropical trees, at BCI.
- Walter Hoedl, Senior scholar from the Institute of Zoology, Brasil, Aug 10-22, to visit STRI, present a seminar and consult with colleagues.

Departures

- Noris Salazar, Aug 6-13, to Mexico City, to present two papers at the *International Bryophytes Conference*, on the biology, diversity and conservation of tropical bryophytes.
- Mireya Correa, Aug 7-16, to Turrialba, Costa Rica, to edit the proceedings of the *Reunión Regional de Directores de Herbarios de Centroamérica y el Caribe* and consult with colleagues at INBIO.

- Martin Moynihan, Aug 8-18, to Honolulu, Hawaii, to attend the XXIV International Ethological Conference.
- Héctor Guzmán and Gabriel Jácome, Aug 9-20, to Cayos Cochinos, Honduras, on official business.
- Nancy Knowlton, Javier Jara and José López, Scholarly Studies Fellow, Aug 10-17, to do research at the Cayos Cochinos Station, in Honduras.

Rubinoff: "Rain Forest Guardian"

Director Ira Rubinoff was named "Rain Forest Guardian" in the category of Science and Medicine of the City University of New York's 1995 *Cuny Gifts to the World*, for his efforts in "saving the rain forest." As STRI's director, "...Rubinoff, a 1959 graduate of *Queens College*, has been fighting to save the rain forest. In the early 1980s, he proposed that developed nations purchase about a tenth of the rain forest. In exchange, equatorial nations could use the money to develop agriculture without destroying more of the forest. Dr. Rubinoff's proposal has influenced World Bank policy on the issue. Dr. Rubinoff was also the first to demonstrate that the fish species separated by the Isthmus of Panama for two-and-a-half million years are still capable of gene exchange", concludes the 1995 *Cuny Gifts to the World 111 Alumni Achievers* publication.

Sobre Eric Amado

Aunque la operación del trasplante de riñón a Eric Amado González fue calificada como exitosa, el niño ha presentado severas complicaciones post-operatorias y hubo de someterle a dos nuevas operaciones. El niño se encuentra en estado "crítico", y fue trasladado a la Clínica Lirios del Valle, en Cali. El pasado viernes se ofreció una misa por la salud de Eric a las 5:30pm en el Santuario Nacional.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

At the Tupper Center

Aug 7-11: *Nuestros Bosques: Nuestra Herencia* exhibit.
 Mon, Aug 7 ■ Housing Committee Meeting, SMR, 2pm
 Tue, Aug 8 ■ Animal Welfare Meeting, SMR, 12 noon
 ■ Noon seminar by Bruce (Lock) Rogers, AUD
 ■ Scientific Staff Meeting, LMR, 2pm

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

Mon, Aug 7 Summer Camp, Ft. Clayton students
 Tue, Aug 8 *Escuela República de China*
 Wed, Aug 9 *Instituto Enrico Fermi*
 Thu, Aug 10 *Escuela Japón*
 Fri, Aug 11 *Escuela Japón*

At Barro Colorado Island Station

Sat, Aug 5 *Colegio Rafael A. Moreno, and Instituto Nacional*
 Sun, Aug 6 *Asociación Nacional de Muchachas Guías*
 Sat, Aug 12 *Visitors from Panama City*
 Sun, Aug 13 *Colegio Bilingüe Las Cumbres*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From STRI Washington D.C.

David Gruber, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island in Environmental Management and Biological Oceanography, has joined the Center for Tropical Forest Science as a one-year research assistant. He will be working out of the Washington Office assisting CTFS Director, Elizabeth Losos.

Ensayos de Reforestación

Recientemente, se iniciaron las actividades para el mantenimiento de más de 200 unidades experimentales para reforestación con especies nativas en suelos degradados y áreas revertidas adyacentes al Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado. Hasta el momento se han sembrado más de 14,000 plántones en estos sitios, donde el Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico (CTFS) espera generar información para determinar cómo afectan la maleza, los insectos, los incendios y las características del suelo, al crecimiento de 17 especies nativas. *NOTICIA DEL CTFS*

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Camacho, Rosa. 1995. Estudio Comparativo de las Esporas de Cuatro Especies de la Familia Calymperaceae (Bryophyta) de Panamá. Thesis. Panamá: Universidad de Panamá.
- Camacho, Rosa and Salazar Allen, Noris. 1995. "Notas Preliminares Sobre las Esporas de *Syrrophodon incompletus* Schwaegr, y *Calymperes lonchophyllum* Schwaegr." *Briolatina* 35: 6.
- Smythe, Nick and Brown de Guanti, O. 1995. *La Domestización y Cría de la Paca* (Agouti paca). Roma: Guía FAO Conservación 26.

MISCELLANEOUS

Believe It or Not

Guacamayas-Macaws: a pair (probably escaped) of the small species *Ara severa*, the chestnut fronted macaw, which was once probably native to this area has been feeding on teak fruits near the Tupper Center. There are a number of exotic parrots and macaws in the old Zone area on the Pacific side. In addition, there are five other species which still breed in this area or nearby and can be seen daily. No other capital city in Latin American claims such diversity. For details, get in contact with Neal G. Smith, Tupper Center.

Desde Barro Colorado

Compañeros de BCI están organizando un paseo a Santa Clara para el domingo 15 de agosto, partiendo de Tupper a las 8am. Interesados favor llamar a Vielka Rodríguez, BCI.

Se Vende

Honda CRX rojo, 1985, \$3,000. Interesados llamar a Vielka Rodríguez al 333-4943, fuera de horas de trabajo.