

STRI newsletter

August 25, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 34

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

On Tuesday, August 29, we will have two noon seminars. At 11am, the seminar speaker will be Paul Schmid-Hempel, ETH-Zurich, Switzerland

Parasite and Social Insects

SPECIAL

The second seminar, at 1pm, Tue 29, will be given by Nicholas Georgiadis, Mpala Research Station new director, at Kenya

Genealogical Reconstruction of Population History: Comparison among African Herbivores

Abstract

In situ conservation policies are increasingly based on information about patterns of biodiversity, but the processes that engendered those patterns operate over evolutionary time scales, and remain poorly understood. Recent advances in genealogical theory have spawned a series of methods that might allow us to partially reconstruct those processes from patterns of genetic variation that exist among extant populations.

When applied in a comparative manner to elephants and five other large African herbivores on a continental scale, this genealogical approach revealed strongly contrasting population histories. Such wide variation among species was not adequately explained by extrinsic factors like geographical distance or relief, or by intrinsic factors like degrees of mobility, philopatry or different feeding preferences. Rather, differences among species in degree of habitat specificity appeared to dominate rates and extents of ancestral gene flow.

This retrospective approach will help us to maintain and restore not only patterns of biodiversity, but the functional integrity of large-scale evolutionary and ecological processes in an increasingly fragmented world.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Paul and Regula Schmidt-Hempel, University of Tuebingen, Germany, Aug 26-21 Sep, to study the biogeography of host-parasite interactions, at BCI.
- Trina Vittetoe, Southhampton College, Aug 26-23 Sep, to work with Richard Condit and study the effects of forest management practices on earthworm populations and soil health, at BCI.
- Lucy Dorick, STRI Development Officer in Washington, Aug 27-1 Sep, on official business
- Nick Georgiadis, director of the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya, Aug 27-1 Sep, to visit STRI facilities, meet with staff and give a seminar.
- David Umansky, director of communications at the SI Office of Public Affairs, Aug 28, to visit STRI facilities and consult with staff.
- James Nieh and David Stein, Cornell University, Aug 29-10 Dec, to study the food recruitment communication of *Melipona eburnea*, at BCI.
- Neil Davies, STRI Short-term fellow from the University College London, UK, Aug 30-30 Dec, to do research in evolutionary genetics, at Naos Labs.
- Ann Cleveland and Allen Verde, Northern Arizona University, Aug 31-16 Sep, to study the feeding physiology and ecology of territorial herbivores damselfishes, at San Blas.
- Robert Pearcy, Mellon Senior fellow, and Fernando Valladares, Mellon Postdoctoral fellow, both from the University of California, Sep 1-15, to do integrative studies of photosynthesis and whole plant performance in the understory, at BCI.
- Tami Fikstad, STRI's Short-term fellow from the University of Utah, Sep 1-30 Nov, to study the canopy and understory comparisons in herbivory and plant defenses, at BCI.
- Dietrich Von Stradem, University of Tubingen, Germany, Sep 1-16 Dec, to work with Elisabeth Kalko, in her project of the echolocation and foraging behavior of neotropical bats, on BCI.
- Eight students from the University of Tubingen, Sep 1-23, to participate in a tropical ecology field course organized by Elisabeth Kalko, at BCI.

Departures

- Anthony Coates, Aug 26-2 Sep, to Belem, Brasil, to participate at the IAI Workshop on Global Change.

Wedding Bells

Our congratulations to Amarjit (Margie) Argüelles and Brett Clingan for their marriage on Wednesday, August 23.

At the Library

Effective Monday, August 21, Elizabeth Sanchez will be on maternity leave until November 21. During this period, Félix Filós, Library Science student at the University of Panama will replace her. We welcome him to the STRI community.

Congratulations

To Kaoru and Steve Mulkey for the birth of their daughter Sachi K. Mulkey on Friday, August 18. She weighed 6.5 lbs.

Agradecimiento

Rosa Zambrano desea agradecer por este medio a todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI, quienes le manifestaron su pesar ante la muerte de su hermana Mirna, ayudándola, de esta manera, a resignarse ante esta pérdida familiar.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**Planning Your Departure?**

Please avoid last minute difficulties. Contact Celideth de León at the Office of External Affairs at least 8 working days before intended departure. This is essential since two different government offices are involved in the process of issuing the "Paz y Salvo" (\$1.00) and the sealed exit permit (free of charge).

At the Tupper Center

- Mon, Aug 28 through Thu, Aug 31
- Naciones Unidas meeting, CH, 8am
- Tue, Aug 29
- OFE briefing to visitors, AUD, 9am
 - Product Development meeting, LMR, 10am.
 - STRI Exhibits, LMR, 11am
 - Seminars by Paul Schmid-Hempel, 11am and Nicholas Georgiadis, 1pm, AUD
- Wed, Aug 30
- ICRS-Protocol Sub-Committee meeting, LMR, 10am
- Fri, Sep 1
- COSSAC meeting, LMR, 11:30am

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

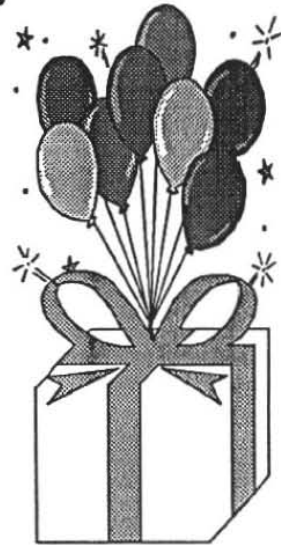
- Tue, Aug 29 Instituto Pedagógico Bautista
- Wed, Aug 30 Instituto Cultural
- Thu, Aug 31 Centro Educativo El Istmo Bilingüe
- Fri, Sep 1 The Oxford School
- Sat, Sep 2 Orden Franciscana Seglar

At Barro Colorado Island Station

- Sat, Aug 26 Educación Ambiental, Ministerio de Educación, Escuela Comercial de Panamá and Escuela de Enfermería, Universidad de Panamá
- Sun, Aug 27 Asociación Panameño-Alemana
- Sat, Sep 2 Colegio SEK Internacional and Asociación Nova Vida/Universidad Tecnológica
- Sun, Sep 3 Instituto Artes y Oficios

ANNOUNCEMENTS**STRI September Birthdays**

Audrey Smith	1
Eldredge Bermingham	2
Lucy Dorick	2
Alejandro Caballero	4
Ricardo Beteta	5
Jaime Sierra	5
Lee Weigt	7
Ruben Lopez	7
Virgilio Sanchez	9
Carlos Tejada	9
Nicolas Sugasti	10
Leoncio Rodriguez	12
Luis Turner	14
William Eberhard	15
Paul Colinvaux	22
Jose Herrera	27
Lastenio Guzman	28
A. Stanley Rand	29
Mirna Fernandez	30

**Mpala Research Center Director**

Nick Georgiadis, new director of the Mpala Research Centre in Kenya (MRC), will visit STRI accompanied by Lucy Dorick this coming week. In 1991 STRI was involved in establishing the MRC in collaboration with Princeton University, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Museums of Kenya, and the Mpala Wildlife Foundation, to conduct multidisciplinary research and training. Georgiadis, born in Nairobi, Kenya, obtained his B.S. in Biology at Kings College, London University and his Ph.D. at the Department of Biology, Syracuse University. Before accepting his present position, he was working as conservation biologist at the Wildlife Conservation Society, NY, and as research associate at the Washington University's Department of Biology, St. Louis, MO. Georgiadis has been the recipient of a number of grants and fellowships and has significant experience in research, ecological monitoring and consultancies in his area of specialization.

New Map of Barro Colorado Island

In collaboration with Judy Skillman, assistant scientific coordinator at BCI and Larry Jungman, DoD, Steve Paton has just completed the most comprehensive and up-to-date color map of BCI. According to Paton, this version is actually a draft, and invites BCI researchers to revise it in order to produce a final version.

In Search Of

Anyone who has the distribution diskettes for Norton Desktop for Windows, please contact Steve Paton.