

STRI newsletter

October 31, 1995

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 41-43

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Oct 31, noon seminar speakers were be John H. Christy, Patricia Backwell, STRI, Thomas Kreuter, Germany and Seiji Goshima

Sand Worms: a Crab's Worst Nightmare

Abstract

The ebbing tide has drained your burrow. Like all fiddler crabs you emerge onto the surface and feed by scraping up bits of diatom-rich sediment. Now a few steps from your burrow's entrance, a crimson muscular tube, laden with gluey mucous, erupts from below, entwines and tethers you to the spot. A nemertean worm has struck. A spike on the worm's proboscis probes but glances off your exoskeleton. Should your armor fail the worm's neurotoxins will paralyze you, its proboscis will retract, its head will enter your body and the worm will suck out your soft tissues. But all is not lost for you have several defenses that give you and the worm about an even chance of success. I will describe these defenses and other features of the natural history of this frequent and dramatic predatory interaction.

OCTOBER TALKS

- On Tue, Oct 17, Don Windsor talked about beetle behavior in the Behavior Discussion Group meeting.
- On Fri, Oct 20, Pedro González, STRI's Post-doctoral fellow, discussed the *Sequence Divergence of Introns, Retrotransposons, and mtDNA in Sea Urchin Geminate Species*, at the Naos Marine luncheon seminar.
- On Tue, Oct 24, noon seminar speaker was Kathie Dickson, California State University: *Evolution of Endothermy in Tunas: How Body Size Makes a Difference*.
- Fri, Oct 27, Haris Lessios discussed the *Diadema* mass mortality as a bottleneck event at the Naos Marine luncheon seminar.

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Fri, Nov 3 is the celebration of Panama's Independence Day, and a Holiday for STRI ••• *El viernes 3 de noviembre se celebra la independencia de Panamá de Colombia, y es feriado para STRI.*



Dennis Dykstra from the Center for International Forestry Research, (CIFOR), Indonesia, visited Panama and STRI to get acquainted with the Institute's research activities and consider potential areas of cooperation. In the photo, Dykstra (center) met with members of STRI and INRENARE to discuss the Darien Swamp Forest Management Project ••• *Dennis Dykstra del Centro Internacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Indonesia, visitó Panamá y STRI para familiarizarse con las actividades de investigación y considerar posibles areas de cooperación. En la foto, Dykstra (centro) se reunió con miembros de STRI e INRENARE, para discutir el proyecto de manejo de cativales y productos no maderables con comunidades campesinas e indígenas del Darién.* (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Larry Abele, Robert Ricklefs and Beryl Simpson, reviewing members of the Professional Accomplishments Evaluation Committee, Oct 16-19, for the PAEC meetings.
- David Penny, University of Manchester, UK, Oct 17-9 Jan, 1996, to study the amber spider as a measure of biodiversity of fossil ecosystems, at BCI.
- Marcelo Rodríguez, University of Brasilia, Oct 22-22 Jan '96, to work with Ross Robertson and Kenneth Clifton, in San Blas.
- Gerhard Urquhart, University of Michigan, Oct 23-3 Dec, to conduct paleoecological investigation of patterns of disturbance and regeneration in hurricane and fire damaged tropical swamp forests. He will be stationed at Tupper.
- José Luis Andrade, México, Oct 25-Aug '96, to work with Richard Meinzer in a study of environmental and physiological regulation of water flux through a tropical forest ecosystem, at BCI.
- Andrew Baker, STRI's pre-doctoral fellow from the University of Miami, Oct 26-26 Oct '96, to study the symbiotic ecology of reef building corals along the Pacific coast of Panama, at Naos.

- Valeria Francisco, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Oct 31-20 Feb, to work with Ross Robertson and Kenneth Clifton on spawning cycles by the Beau Gregory damselfish, at San Blas and Naos.
- Don Hugie, Simon Fraser University, Canada, Oct 31-14 Dec, to study the predator-prey gaming between Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) and fiddler crabs (*Uca* sp.), on mainland.
- John Wenzel, Ohio State University, Oct 31-7 Nov, to work with Istvan Karsai and Zsolt Penzes in the insect architecture project, at BCI.
- Istvan Karsai and Zsolt Penzes, Kossuth University, Hungary, to carry out studies on insect architecture, at BCI.
- John Gittleman, University of Tennessee, Nov 2-16, to work with Roland Kays on the ecological influences of social structure: a study of two primate-like carnivores, at Gamboa.
- Deisi Reyes, Short-term visitor from BIOECO, Cuba, Nov 3-4 Dec, to work on the hepatic flora of the *Sendero de Interpretación Panamá in Altos Campana*.

Departures

- Mireya Correa, Oct 15-21, to Quito, Ecuador, to participate at the *II Congreso Ecuatoriano de Botánica* and the Flora Neotropica Commission meeting.
- Jeremy Jackson, Oct 18-11 Nov, to Paris, France, on official business pertaining the Coral Reef Symposium, to Basel, Switzerland, to work at the Basel National History Museum, and to New Orleans, to attend two meetings of the Geological Society of America.
- Anthony Coates, Oct 21-12 Nov, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI. Then to New Orleans, to attend the meetings of the Geological Society of America.
- David West, Oct 23-2 Nov, to San Diego, to attend the UNOLS Research Vessel Operators Committee meetings. Then to Houston, to inspect the fabrication of the oceanographic winch for the *R.V. Urracá*.
- Donald Windsor, Oct 23-4 Nov., to Japan, at the invitation of the Japanese government and colleagues, to present seminar.
- Harry Barnes, Oct 24-29, to Long Boat Key, to attend meetings of the National Association of Marine Laboratories.
- Ira Rubinoff, Oct 25-7 Nov., to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.
- Vielka Chang-Yau, Oct 27-5 Nov, to Washington D.C., on official business at the SI Libraries.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

From the Director

During my absence from STRI, Leonor Motta will serve as Acting Director from Oct 24-31 and Elena Lombardo from Nov 1-7.

From the Library

During the absence of Vielka Chang-Yau from Oct 27-31 Nov, Angel Aguirre will serve as Acting Chief Librarian.

Activities at Tupper from Oct 17-2 Nov

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| Tue, Oct 17 | ■ PAEC meetings, SMR, 8am |
| | ■ <i>Experiencias de Beijing 95</i> , CH, 8:30am |
| Wed, Oct 18 | ■ PAEC meetings, SMR, 8am |
| Fri, Oct 20 | ■ CTFS meetings, LMR, 8am |
| Sat, Oct 21 | ■ EEO meetings, LMR, 8am |
| Mon, Oct 23 | ■ CIFOR meeting, SMR, 1:30pm |
| Tue, Oct 24 | ■ Noon seminar by Kathie Dickson, AUD |
| | ■ CIFOR meeting, SMR, 1:30pm |
| Tue, Oct 31 | ■ Noon seminar by John Christy, AUD |
| | ■ BDG meeting, LMR, 1:30pm |
| | ■ ADEA meeting, SMR, 2pm |
| Wed, Nov 1 | ■ Isthmian College meeting, AUD, 4:30pm |
| Thu, Nov 2 | ■ Culebra Exhibit Meeting, SMR, 4:30pm |

At the Culebra Marine Reserve from Oct 17-4 Nov

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| Oct 17-19 | <i>Colegio Javier</i> |
| Sat, Oct 20 | <i>Grupo Ecológico del Instituto América</i> |
| Sun, Oct 21 | <i>Universidad Santa María</i> |
| Tue, Oct 24 | <i>St. Mary School</i> |
| Oct 25 & 27 | <i>Colegio Las Bethlemitas</i> |
| Thu, Oct 26 | <i>Colegio Bilingüe Cerro Viento</i> |
| Sat, Oct 28 | <i>Centro Recreativo ZODIAC</i> |
| Tue, Oct 31 | <i>Escuela El Japón</i> |
| Wed, Nov 1 | <i>Sección de Trabajo Social de la Policía</i> |
| Thu, Nov 2 | <i>Escuela El Paraíso</i> |
| Sat, Nov 4 | <i>Voluntarios de ANCON</i> |

At BCI Station from October 14-5 November

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| Sat, Oct 14 | Groups from <i>Colegio La Salle</i> and ANCON |
| Sun, Oct 15 | Group from Balboa High School |
| Sat, Oct 21 | Groups Summit and <i>Instituto Enrico Fermi</i> |
| Sun, Oct 22 | Group from <i>Instituto Comercial de Panamá</i> |
| Sat, Oct 28 | Groups from ACUPAN and Panama |
| Sun, Oct 29 | Group from <i>Colegio San Judas Tadeo</i> |
| Sat, Nov 4 | Groups from USMA and UP |
| Sun, Nov 5 | Visitors from Panama City |

Reminder ••• Recorderis

Effective Sat, Oct 14, *Las Cruces* schedule changed on week-ends. It leaves BCI at 6:30am and Gamboa at 8am. Also, the SACA bus leaves its terminal to Gamboa at 7am on week-ends. The afternoon schedule remains the same ••• *A partir del sábado 14 de octubre, el horario del bote "Las Cruces" cambió durante los fines de semana. Sale de BCI a las 6:30am y de Gamboa a las 8am. El bus de SACA parte hacia Gamboa a las 7am ambos sábado y domingo. El horario de las tardes sigue igual.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Office of Human Resources

- Isis Ivancic was selected to fill the position being left vacant at the Office of the Assistant Director for Scientific Support Services. At the Visitors Office, the position vacated by Isis will be occupied by Orelis Arosemena. Congratulations to both of them!
- Remember to schedule your use or lose leave by November 25th. Annual leave in excess of 240 hours cannot be carried into the next leave year. Such leave will be forfeited if it is not used by January 6, 1996. Employees with excess use or lose leave may wish to donate some of their annual leave to those in need of leave through the Leave Donor Program.
- **Combined Federal Campaign:** It is time again to make pledges for this year's Combined Federal Campaign. Last year, STRI was most generous in its pledges. Contributions may be made by payroll deduction, which makes it possible for most of us to make a really generous gift by spreading the contribution out over a year. Each facility secretary has pledge cards for all interested employees. Also, there are a few catalogues available for the employees to share. A special lapel pin has been designed to be presented in appreciation for outstanding giving: An Eagle Award to recognize those contributors who pledge 1% of their salary, and the Double Eagle, for contributors who pledge 2% or more. The campaign runs until November 30th, but they will accept pledges for a few weeks longer.

New Assistant at the 8th Coral Reefs Symposium

Effective Monday, October 16, Olga Barrio started working at the Office of the Coral Reef Symposium to assist in the preparation of this upcoming event on June 1996. We welcome Olga and wish her success in her new position ••• *A partir del lunes 16 de octubre, Olga Barrio empezó a trabajar en la oficina del Simposio de Arrecifes Coralinos, para asistir en los preparativos de este evento a llevarse a cabo en junio de 1996. Le deseamos el mayor de los éxitos en esta nueva posición.*

Volunteer Research Assistant Available

Jennifer Sokolove, Stanford University, will visit Panama from Nov 15-20 Dec. She wishes to work at STRI as someone's volunteer to learn more about what research areas are currently being explored and to focus her own research interests, since she is applying to Ph.D. programs in conservation biology and ecology. For more information and CV, stop by the Education Office.



En un esfuerzo por mantener al día a la comunidad de STRI sobre las noticias, oportunidades y medidas que se generan en Washington para los empleados del Smithsonian, Amarjit ("Margie") Clingan destinó un área de la oficina de distribución de correos en el Centro Tupper para este material informativo, así como otros documentos de interés. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

STRI November Birthdays

Xenia Guerra	2
Carlos Urbina	6
María Leone	7
María Josefa Villar	8
Amarjit Clingan	10
Olga Linares	10
Moisés Troya	10
Milton García	11
Jeremy Jackson	13
Conrado Tapia	13
Edmundo Rodríguez	22
Erasmus Alvarado	25
Mercedes Arroyo	27
Basilio Mela	28
Saturnino Martínez	29
Luis D'Croz	29



FELLOWSHIP OPORTUNITIES

The Smithsonian offers a variety of fellowships in anthropology, biological sciences, earth sciences, history of art, science and technology, materials analysis and social and cultural history. This fellowship support research in residence at SI in association with the staff using the Institution's resources is for postdoctoral scholars, doctoral candidates and graduate students. Those interested in any of these fellowships may stop by the Office of Education at Tupper or E-mail at siofg@sivm.si.edu, giving your area of study, dates of graduate degrees received and/or expected and your mailing address. Deadline for SI Fellowships is January 15, 1996.

XIV Congreso Científico Nacional

Durante el XIV Congreso Científico Nacional celebrado en la Universidad de Panamá del 24 al 26 de octubre, participaron, por invitación de Vicerrectoría de Investigación y Postgrado:

- Helena Fortunato: *El desarrollo larval de dos especies de estrombinas del Pacífico*
- Roberto Ibáñez y Stanley Rand: *La variación en la composición de especies de anuros en la región central de Panamá*
- Francisco Solís, Roberto Ibáñez y César Jaramillo: *Las serpientes presentes en Panamá*
- César Jaramillo y Roberto Ibáñez: *Eleutherodactylus museosus: una especie nueva de rana (Anura: Leptodactylidae) de las tierras altas de Panamá.*

Primer Encuentro Nacional de ALIECEN

El Ministerio de Educación y la Universidad de Panamá convocaron al I Encuentro Nacional de Investigadores en la Enseñanza de las Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, organizado por la Asociación Latinoamericana de Investigadores en la Enseñanza de las Ciencias Exactas y Naturales. En carta dirigida al director Ira Rubinoff, los organizadores del evento invitaron a la comunidad científica de STRI a participar en el encuentro. Mireya Correa y Claudia Peralta dictaron el seminario taller "Biodiversidad Vegetal: Flora de Panamá" y el personal a cargo de la organización del VIII Simposio Internacional de Arrecifes Coralinos y la Oficina de Educación de STRI contribuyeron con información sobre las actividades de investigación del Instituto en Panamá, y el programa público que se llevará a cabo durante el simposio de arrecifes.

MISCELLANEOUS

List of New Books at the Library

La Lista de Libros Nuevos en la Biblioteca

The section "New STRI Booklist" of the STRI newsletter is now available directly from the Library in GroupWise. Printed copies can be found at the Library and a copy will be sent to all facilities' secretaries for those not connected to

GroupWise. BCI will receive printed copies as usual ••• *La lista de libros recién llegados a la biblioteca está disposición en GroupWise directamente de la Biblioteca. Copias impresas pueden obtenerse en la biblioteca y se le mandará una copia a las secretarías de cada estación de trabajo para aquellos no conectados a GroupWise. BCI seguirá recibiendo copias impresas como siempre.*

For Internet Users

- *Nature* is now on-line. You can find valuable additions to *Nature* at <http://www.nature.com>
- World-Wide Web document entitled *Neogene Marine Fossils of Tropical America* (<http://porites.geology.uiowa.edu>) is now available via Internet. Images and taxonomic information are currently available for hermatypic corals, gastropods, and ostracodes collected as part of the Panama Paleontology Project, coordinated by Anthony Coates and Jeremy Jackson of STRI, and the Dominican Republic Project, coordinated by Peter Jung and John Saunders of the Natural History Museum in Basel. For more information please contact Helena Fortunato at the Naos Laboratories.

MISCELLANEOUS

Raineldo Urriola's New Telephone Number

Raineldo Urriola, scientific coordinator at Tupper changed his home phone number to 268-4387.

Reminder from Barbara Casana

This past weekend the US turned their clocks back one hour for Daylight Savings Time adjustment. This means that Panama and Washington are on the same time now.

For Sale ••• *Se Vende*

- Hyundai Elantra 1992, a/c, std., 4 doors, red.
- Mercedes Benz, 280SE, 1982, a/c, 4 doors, grey. Both cars are in excellent condition. For more information please call Daniel Millán, a.w.h., at 276-6725.
- Computador 486DX-50 con 4 MB memoria RAM, monitor a colores SVGA y tarjeta SVGA con 1MB. Disco duro 250 MB, 1 puerto paralelo, 2 puertos seriales (mouse y/o modem). Unidades de discos flexibles de 3½ y 5¼. Tarjeta para manejo de video. Precio \$1,650 negociable. Interesados llamar a Carlos Muñoz después de las 6pm al 221-2518.
- "Original" double burner exercise machine (almost new) \$100. Interested please call Mercedes Denis.

Car Wanted

Ronald Kays and Judy Hudock, Gamboa, are looking to buy a used car, preferably 4x4 or at least with good clearance, for use during next year. E-mail them at Sstri02.gamboa.gam183d@ic.si.edu, or call 276-6278, if you know of any cars for sale.