

Newsletter for GroupWise

Tupper Center Seminars

Tue, Dec 12, noon seminar speaker will be Nancy Knowlton, STRI
The Origin and Maintenance of Diversity in the Sea

Abstract

*Species in the sea, as traditionally defined, often have wide geographic ranges and large amounts of morphological and genetic variation. However, recent studies from a variety of locations and habitats now point to the existence of large numbers of "sibling" species that were missed in earlier taxonomic surveys. Two examples are discussed in detail. First, in the snapping shrimp genus *Alpheus*, studies of related forms separated by the Isthmus of Panama indicate that the 3 million years of isolation have led to reproductive barriers between them. Using these Isthmian data to interpret patterns of genetic variation elsewhere, it is also possible to show that "species" believed to span the tropical Indowest Pacific also consist of complexes of reproductively isolated, sibling species. The second example concerns the coral *Montastraea annularis* and its dinoflagellate symbionts. What was once thought to be one coral with a single symbiont is now recognized as 3 coral species with 3 major groups of symbionts that can associate in a variety of complex and ecologically important patterns. These discoveries call into question the long-held view that marine organisms are usually wide ranging, ecological generalists.*

Tue, Dec 19, noon seminar speaker will be Martin Wikelski, University of Washington
*Evolution of Body Size in the Galapagos Marine Iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*)*

Abstract

By knowing the quantitative amount of selection pressures and the mechanisms of selection, I can approximately explain body sizes in marine iguana island populations from just two environmental parameters, namely effective temperature and food supply.

Bambi Seminars

Thursday, December 7, Bambi seminar speaker will be John Skillman, Duke University
*The "CAM-pain" to Evaluate the Functional Consequences of Photosynthetic Acid Metabolism in *Aechmea magdalenae*, a terrestrial Shade Bromeliad.*

From the Library ••• *De la Biblioteca*

Since Friday, Dec 8th is Mother's Day and a Holiday, the library will remain closed on Saturday, Dec. 9th, so that the library staff may enjoy a long week-end too ••• *Al celebrarse el Día de la Madre el viernes 8 de diciembre, la biblioteca cerrará también el sábado para permitir que su personal disfrute del fin de semana largo.*

People

Arrivals

- David Zeh, University of Huston, Texas, Dec 9-14 Jan, to continue field experiments on reproductive success in the Harlequin beetle associated pseudoscorpion, at Gamboa.
- Sylvester Tan, Lambir National Park, Malaysia and Constanza Rios and Humberto Mendoza, Colombia, to visit STRI facilities and consult with CTFS's colleagues.
- Elizabeth Stockwell, University of Washington, Dec 13-31 Jan, to carry out studies of the wing morphology and flight maneuverability of forest understory bats, at BCI.
- Melvin Tyree, University of Vermont, Dec 15, to continue research in the evolution and structure of terrestrial ecosystems, at BCI.

Departures

- Arturo Dominici, Dec 9-24, to San Andrés, Colombia, to work with John Pandolfi in his paleoecological study in pleistocene reef coral assemblage.
- Leonor Motta, Dec 10-16, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.
- Ira Rubinoff, Dec 12-16, to San José, Costa Rica, on official business.

STRI in the News • *STRI en las Noticias*

- On Tue, Dec 5, the STRI exhibition *Parting the Green Curtain* opened to the public in Curitiba, Brazil, at the Universidade Federal do Parana. The exhibition will travel within Brazil during 1996 ••• *El martes 5 de diciembre la exhibición de STRI "Descorriendo la Cortina Verde" abrió al público en Curitiba, Brasil, en la Universidad Federal de Paraná. La exhibición se presentará en diferentes puntos de Brasil durante el próximo año.*
- IPAT (Panamanian Institute for Tourism) will sponsor the publication of a poster promoting the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium to be held in Panama next June, to promote Panama's national and international tourism. Photographs (color slides) of representative Panamanian coral species —both from the Atlantic and the Pacific— will be needed for the production of the poster. STRI and the University of Panama, organizers of the Symposium, will receive a number of these posters. Those who have slides of corals and would like their photographs to be submitted for the poster may contact Elena Lombardo in Tivoli no later than January 5th. Photographers' credits will be acknowledge ••• *El Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT) financiará la producción de un afiche para promover el 8avo. Simposio de Arrecifes Coralinos que se llevará a cabo en Panamá en Junio de 1996, para promover el turismo nacional e internacional. Para ello se necesitan diapositivas de corales panameños de ambos océanos. STRI y la Universidad de Panamá, organizadores del simposio recibirán un número plural de estos afiches. Aquellos que tengan diapositivas de corales y quieran someter sus fotos para la publicación de este afiche pueden acercarse a la oficina de Elena Lombardo en Tivoli, antes del 5 de enero. Se reconocerán los créditos de los fotógrafos.*

Oportunities

Biodiversity Support Program

The BSP, a consortium of World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy and World

Resources Institute, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is pleased to announce its 1995 Conservation Impact Grant Program. "We are currently soliciting proposals under this program for applied field-based research and analysis relevant to the conservation of biological diversity in selected USAID-assisted countries worldwide".

American Society of Naturalists Call for Posters and Papers

ASN 1996 Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, 11-15 August, 1996 (Deadline for abstracts is January 31, 1996).

Congreso de Entomología

VI Latinoamericano Congreso de Entomología XXXI Nacional, del 26 al 30 de mayo de 1996, Yucatán, México

Cuarto Curso de Dendrología Tropical, 1996

International Mycological Institute Training Courses 1996

- Identification of Industrial and Food Spoilage Fungi
- Modern Techniques in the Identification of Bacteria and Filamentous Fungi
- International Course on the Identification of Fungi of Agricultural and Environmental Significance
- Mycotoxins: occurrence, significance and analysis
- Isolation and Identification of Fungi from Natural Habitats
- Basic Mycological Techniques

More information at the STRI Office of Education, Tupper Center, #340.

For Internet Users

- The Smithsonian Institution Libraries Web Server is Online! The Smithsonian Institution Libraries is pleased to announce the availability of its Home Page on the World Wide Web at URL <<http://www.sil.si.edu/>>. Now available on the Libraries Home Page is:

- the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, User Guide;
 - information from the National Museum of American History Branch; the National Museum of Natural History Branch, the Anthropology Branch, and the Museum Support Center Branch;
- the online version of "Science and the Artist's Book", the Smithsonian Institution Libraries' current exhibition which explores the links between scientific and artistic creativity through books.

The Libraries will announce early in 1996 the availability of the first materials in the re-publishing pilot project. Funding for the Smithsonian Institution Libraries Web Server was provided by the Smithsonian Institution's Atherton Seidell Endowment Fund.

- On the heels of *Nature*, *Science* is on the internet at <http://science-mag.aaas.org/science/>

Miscellaneous

Christmas Tickets ••• *Boletos para la Fiesta de Navidad*

Tickets for the STRI Christmas Party are available at every facility's secretary ••• *Los boletos para la Fiesta de Navidad de STRI están disponibles en cada sitio de trabajo, con la secretaria encargada.*

New Addresses

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For Sale • *Se Vende*

Suzuki GN, 250 ER, 250 CC motor, 1995, black, 2,600 km, US\$3,000. Interested please call Celideth De León at 235-9196 a/w/h • *Suzuki GN, 250 ER, motor de 250 cc, negra, 2600 km. recorridos. Interesados pueden llamar a Celideth De León al 235-9196, fuera de horas de trabajo.*