

STRI news

January 19, 1996

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

Taller de Biología Molecular

On Mon, Jan 22 and Tue, Jan 23, a Molecular Biology Workshop will be held at the Tupper Center, to promote the exchange of information between molecular laboratories in Panama and Costa Rica. Participants are primarily from the University of Costa Rica, STRI, University of Panama and Santa Maria University. Those interested in the program may contact the Tupper Center Reception Desk at 227-6022 or the Naos Marine Laboratories at 228-4022 • Fax 228-0516. E-mail: STRI01.naos.bermingb@ic.si.edu ••• Los días lunes y martes 22-23 de enero se llevará a cabo un Taller de Biología Molecular en el Centro Tupper, para promover el intercambio de información entre los laboratorios moleculares de Panamá y Costa Rica. Los participantes son principalmente de la Universidad de Costa Rica, la Universidad de Panamá, la Universidad Santa María y STRI. Interesados en obtener el programa pueden comunicarse con la recepción del Centro Tupper al 227-6022 o con los Laboratorios Marinos de Isla Naos al 228-4022 • Fax 228-0516 E-mail: STRI01.naos.bermingb@ic.si.edu.

NEXT WEEK'S SEMINAR

Tue, Jan 30, noon seminar speaker will be Kenneth Clifton, STRI research affiliate
The Difference Between Parrotfish and Gazelles

Abstract

In the parrotfish, social interactions determine dispersion, hence, resource variability is the result rather than the cause of dispersion. But in the gazelle, resource variability and physiological factors run the show. Social interactions are secondary.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Christopher Losi, Princeton University, Jan 20-3 Feb, to continue research on "Forestry as a Response to Global Warming: an analysis of the Panamanian Plantation Project."



On Fri, Jan 12, director Ira Rubinoff and Ramón Argote, director of IRHE, the Panamanian institute for hydroelectrical resources, signed an agreement of cooperation that will allow researchers to use stations at La Yeguada, Bayano and future Esti in Chiriquí ••• El pasado 12 de enero el director Ira Rubinoff y Ramón Argote, director del Instituto de Recursos Hidráulicos y Electrificación, IRHE, firmaron el Convenio de Cooperación IRHE-STRI, que permite a investigadores del Instituto llevar a cabo estudios en las estaciones del IRHE en Fortuna, La Yeguada, Bayano y Esti, en Chiriquí.
(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Pedro León Azofeifa, Burch fellow, and 17 students from Universidad de Costa Rica, Jan 20-24, to attend the molecular biology workshop, at Tupper.
- Stephan Schnitzler, University of Pittsburg, Jan 21-10 Aug, to study liana ecology, succession and the effect of herbivores on liana growth, at BCI.
- Elizabeth Losos, CTFS director, Jan 20, on official business.
- Theodore Panayotu and M. Boscolo, Harvard Institute for International Development, Jan 20, to attend meetings of the CTFS.
- Forty-five members of the Society for Industrial Archaeology, Jan 23-24, to visit STRI during a week visit in Panama. Their tour includes the Tupper Center and Barro Colorado Island.
- David Shayt, SI National Museum of American Heritage, Jan 23-24, to act as study team leader during the visit of the members of the Society for Industrial Archaeology.
- Robin Foster, Jan 26, to attend the meetings of the CTFS.
- Ann Cleveland, STRI's short-term fellow from Northern Arizona University, Jan 29-29 Jul, to study the feeding physiology and ecology of territorial herbivorous damselfishes, at San Blas.

- Alan Verde, Florida Institute of Technology, Jan 29-29 Jul, to work with Ann Cleveland, at San Blas.
- Bill Robertson and wife Alicia from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation accompanied by Lisa Barnett of STRI, Jan 30-5 Feb, to visit STRI research projects.
- Maria Alejandra Jaramillo, Universidad de Los Andes, Feb 1-30 Apr, to work with Joe Wright in the evaluation of the reproductive status for selected tree species in the BCI forest plot.
- James Luteyn, New York Botanical Garden, Feb 1-28, to conduct studies on the Ericaceae of the tropics, at Tupper.
- Diane Neudorf, York University, Feb 1-31 Mar, to work with Eugene Morton in the study of individual territoriality in two tropical birds, in Gamboa.
- Ernest Williams, Harvard University, Feb 1-1 Apr, to visit STRI and consult with colleagues. He will be stationed in Gamboa.
- Frank Almeda, Tomas Daniel and Ivan Valdespino, California Academy of Sciences, to conduct floristic and monographic studies of Melastomataceae, Acanthaceae and Pteridophytes, at Tupper.

Departures

- Ralf Kaemmerer, Jan 15-20 Feb, to Tucson, Arizona, on a research trip, then to Europe on a short vacation.
- Stanley Rand, Jan 16-20 Feb, on a three-month visit at SI National Zoological Park, Washington D.C.
- Héctor Guzmán, Jan 24-26, to Prondencales, Turks, and Caicos Islands, visiting the Caicos Concha Farm.
- David Roubik, Jan 29-9 Feb, to Costa Rica, to teach a course at the OTS.

Our Condolences

- To Neal Smith and Ninochtka Franco-Smith, for the recent loss of her father, Napoleón Franco ••• *A Neal Smith y Ninochtka Franco-Smith, por la reciente muerte de su padre, Napoleón Franco.*
- To Alberto E. Guerra and Xenia Saavedra de Guerra, for the death of her father, Pacífico A. Saavedra, on Jan 8 ••• *A Alberto Guerra y Xenia Saavedra de Guerra, por la muerte de su padre Pacífico A. Saavedra, el 8 de enero.*

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

A new revised boat and bus schedule to Gamboa and BCI has been printed with minor changes. Those interested in a copy may contact Orelis Arosemena, Visitor's Office at Tupper, for a copy ••• *Hay una nueva lista*

revisada del horario de los buses de SACA que viajan a Gamboa y del bote a Barro Colorado. Interesados en obtener una copia de la lista pueden comunicarse con Orelis Arosemena de la Oficina de Visitantes, en el Centro Tupper.

Important! ••• ¡Importante!

There will be no electricity at the Tupper Center on Sat, Jan 20, due to electric work scheduled by IRHE in the area. The Library will be closed. *El sábado 20 de enero no habrá electricidad en el Centro Tupper, por trabajos planeados por el IRHE. La Biblioteca se mantendrá cerrada.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRI in the News

Playing by the Rules: How and Why Organisms Turn Nasty, by Marjorie Centofanti. *Science News* 148: December 2, 1995: 382-383.

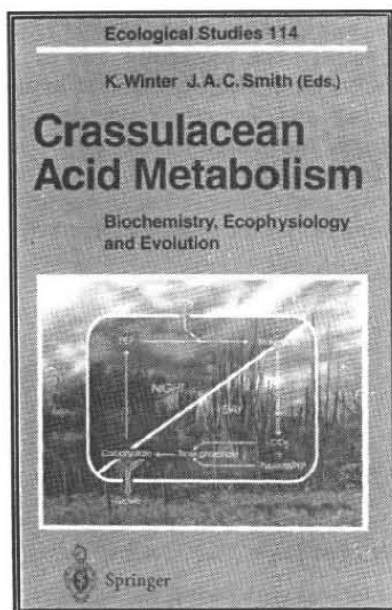
III Seminario Taller sobre Estrategias de Protección

Del 3 al 8 de enero se llevó a cabo el III Seminario-Taller "Estrategias de Protección Diurna-Nocturna de Areas Silvestres", que el cuerpo de guardabosques de STRI que labora en Barro Colorado, ofrece a guardabosques del IRHE que laboran en la cuenca hidrográfica de Fortuna. Este adiestramiento e intercambio de ideas realizado anteriormente en los años 1989 y 1990, forma parte del convenio de colaboración mutua entre STRI y el IRHE.

Oportunidad de Trabajo en Investigación

Se busca persona bilingüe para hacerse cargo de programa de investigación sobre hongos y bacterias con sede en Barro Colorado, por dos años y medio. Deberá ser panameño/a, con doctorado o maestría en biología o ciencias afines y experiencia. La persona seleccionada será responsable de la definición, planeamiento, ejecución, análisis e interpretación del trabajo de investigación sobre la ecología de hongos y bacterias relacionados con plantas y llevará cabo trabajos de campo y de laboratorio. También deberá administrar base de datos y supervisar dos estudiantes de maestría y sus trabajos de tesis, así como a asistente de laboratorio. Se preferirán candidatos que hayan publicado el producto de sus investigaciones y estén familiarizados con procedimientos científicos sofisticados. Salario de acuerdo a experiencia. Los interesados deberán enviar curriculum vitae, referencias recientes y carta de presentación a la Oficina de Recursos Humanos de STRI, Apartado 3353, Balboa, Ancón. Se recibirán solicitudes hasta el 31 de enero.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS



Members of the SI Women's Committee with Beth King, BCI exhibition coordinator, (fourth from the left) and Allen Herre (not in the photo) as their guides, experienced typical rainy season conditions on the Barro Colorado nature trail, on Monday, January 15. (Photo: M.A. Guerra)

Behling, Herman. 1995. "Investigations into the Late Pleistocene and Holocene History of Vegetation and Climate in Santa Catarina (S. Brazil)." *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* 4(3): 127-152.

Eberhard, William G. and Cordero, Carlos. 1995. "Sexual Selection by Cryptic Female Choice on Male Seminal Products — A New Bridge Between Sexual Selection and Reproductive Physiology." *Tree* 10(12): 493-496.

Ibáñez D., Roberto, Arosemena, Fernando A., Solís, Frank A. and Jaramillo, César A. 1995. "Anfibios y Reptiles de la Serranía Piedras-Pacora, Parque Nacional Chagres." *Scientia (Panamá)* 9(1): 17-31.

Roubik, David W., Inoue, Tamiji and Hamid, Abang Abdul. 1995. "Canopy Foraging by Two Tropical Honeybees: Bee Height Fidelity and Tree Genetic Neighborhoods." *Tropics* 5(1/2): 81-93.

Roubik, David W., Yanega, D., Aluja S., M., Buchmann, S.L. and Inouye, D.W.

1995. "On Optimal Nectar Foraging by Some Tropical Bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae)." *Apidologie* 26: 197-211.

Seutin, Gilles, Ratcliffe, Laurene M. and Boag, Peter T. 1995. "Mitochondrial DNA Homogeneity in the Phenotypically Diverse Redpoll Finch Complex (Aves: Carduelinae: *Carduelis flammea-hornemanni*)." *Evolution* 49(5): 963-973.

Shulman, Myra J. and Bermingham, Eldredge. 1995. "Early Life Histories, Ocean Currents, and the Population Genetics of Caribbean Reef Fishes." *Evolution* 49(5): 897-910.

Winter, Klaus and Smith, J. Andrew C. (editors) 1996. *Crassulacean Acid Metabolism: Biochemistry, Ecophysiology and Evolution*. Springer: Ecological Studies 114.

DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE PANAMA

El Instituto del Canal de Panamá y Estudios Internacionales de la Universidad de Panamá invita a la comunidad de STRI al seminario-taller *Principios del Análisis de Población: Una Propuesta de Metodología Operacional*, del 22 al 26 de enero, con una duración de 40 horas. Interesados deberán llamar al 269-9962, 263-6133 ext 416 • Fax 269-9963 • E-mail icap@ancon.up.ac.pa. Costo: \$30.00. Estudiantes \$10.

1995 Precipitation on BCI

The total precipitation recorded at the BCI meteorological station was 2515.6mm (vs. the long-term average of 2641.5 mm). The year began quite well with 977.9 mm of rain falling in the first six months (vs. the long-term average of 764.8 mm). Beginning in Aug and lasting until the middle of Nov, however, rainfall on the entire Atlantic side of the Canal area was markedly reduced—most likely as a consequence of the of the unusually high hurricane activity in the Caribbean. With the end

of the hurricane season, precipitation patterns returned to normal. Most recently, the unusually cold air from North America that began in Dec, has resulted in unusually heavy December and January rains throughout Panama and delayed the onset of the Dry Season. According to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department in the Panama Canal Commission, this year's Dry Season is already one of the four latest on record.

Steve Paton

