

# STRI news

February 9, 1996

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

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, February 13, noon seminar speaker will be Jack Werren, SI senior postdoctoral fellow from the University of Rochester

*The Evolution of Heritable Microorganisms: Implications for Sex and Speciation*

### Abstract

Heritable microorganisms (microbes that are transmitted via reproduction of their hosts) are widespread on nature. Some of these microorganisms cause various reproductive alterations in their hosts. Information on the evolution and phylogeny of heritable microbes and their implications for sexual reproduction and speciation will be presented.

## BAMBI SEMINAR

Thursday, February 15, Bambi seminar speaker will be Robert Percy, University of California at Davis

*Crown Architecture and Light Capture in the Genus Psychotria and other Interesting Plants*

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Call BCI at 272-2142.

## NAOS LABS LUNCHEON

Fri, Feb 16, Naos Marine Lab Luncheon speaker will be Vittorio Luchini, Institute Nazionale per Fauna Selvatica, Italy

*Hermit Hummingbirds and their Hidden Phylogeny*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Lee Miller, Odense University, Denmark, Feb 10-15, to work with Elisabeth Kalko in her project of echolocation and foraging behavior of neotropical bats, at BCI.



On Monday, Feb 5, INRENARE director Rolando Guillén and Ira Rubinoff signed an agreement of cooperation between INRENARE and STRI, to share experiences and technical information on marine and terrestrial tropical ecosystems ••• El lunes 5 de febrero, Rolando Guillén, director de INRENARE y Ira Rubinoff firmaron un convenio de cooperación entre INRENARE y STRI, para intercambiar experiencias y conocimientos sobre los ecosistemas marinos y terrestres del trópico.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Michael Braun, National Museum of Natural History, Feb 11-9 Mar, to conduct genetic studies of an avian hybrid zone (Genus Manacus), on Bocas del Toro and other parts of Panama.
- Robb Brumfield, National Museum of Natural History, Feb 11-4 Mar, to work with Michael Braun, in mainland.
- Guillermo Goldstein, University of Hawaii, Feb 12-10 Mar, to collaborate with Allen Herre on studies of carbon balance of fig fruits, on BCI.
- Nigel Asquith, STRI pre-doctoral fellow from Duke University, Feb 15-1 Jan '97, to study the abiotic and biotic control of tree regeneration on experimental comparison of sites around Gatun Lake, on BCI.
- Graciela Lescano, Argentina, Feb 16-6 Mar, to work with Richard Meinzer on the environmental and physiological regulation of water flux through a tropical forest ecosystem, on BCI.

### Departures

- Olga Linares, Feb 11-15 Mar, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI and to attend the meetings of the National Research

Council. Then to Rome, at the invitation of IRGRI, to assess their genetic diversity program.

**At Cayos Cochinos, Honduras**

- Renae J. Brodie, University of Washington, Feb 14-15 Mar, to study the terrestrial hermit crabs: the role of sensory system in locating and remembering food resources.



**HIGHLIGHTS**

The ICRS 1996 Organization Committee has decided to sell books that are available at the STRI bookstore at VIII International Coral Reef Symposium, to be held from Jun 24-26 at Atlapa. Due to this we are requesting that you please suggest titles, authors, etc. of the books that you recommend be sold at the Symposium. Please send your reply via e-mail to Audrey Smith or a written note then directly to Doris Martiz, Bookstore Manager. Your prompt attention to this subject will be greatly appreciated to be able to purchase the books on time for the congress.

**STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS**

Adams, Eldridge S. and Mesterton-Gibbons, Michael. 1995. "The Cost of Threat Displays and the Stability of Deceptive Communication." *Journal of Theoretical Biology* 175: 405-421.

Batista Ceballos, Oriana Irina. 1995. Variación en el ADN Mitocondrial del Grupo Amerindio Cuna de Panamá. Thesis. San José: Universidad de Costa Rica.

Losos, Elizabeth C. 1995. "Looking at the Big Picture." *Inside CTFS Fall '95*: 1, 15.

Lovelock, Catherine E., Osmond, C.B. and Seppelt, R.D. 1996. "Photoinhibition in the Antarctic Moss *Grimmia antarctica* Card when Exposed to Cycles of Freezing and Thawing." *Plant, Cell and Environment* 18: 1395-1402.

Morales, Juan E. 1995. "Participatory Forestry Research in the Buffer Zone of Barro Colorado National Monument, Panama." *Inside CTFS Fall '95*: 2.

Wcislo, William T. and Cane, James H. 1996. "Floral Resource Utilization by Solitary Bees (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) and Exploitation of their Stored Foods by Natural Enemies." *Annual Review of Entomology* 41: 257-286.

The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 7, 1996

**150th Anniversary  
of the Smithsonian Institution**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

When James Smithson, an English scientist, died in 1829, he gave his entire estate "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." This extraordinary gift, amounting to one and one-half times the Federal budget of the day, led to passage of an Act of Congress establishing the Smithsonian Institution. Signed by President James Polk on August 10, 1846, this legislation created a Board of Regents to oversee the execution of Smithson's trust.

Today, 150 years later, the Smithsonian Institution is famed around the globe, and its collections are enjoyed by thousands of Americans and foreign visitors every day. Through dedicated original research, the preservation of an unequaled collection of artifacts, and the presentation of public exhibitions and programs, the Smithsonian truly embodies its benefactor's dream. As one of the foremost repositories of American heritage and culture, the Institution provides unique insight into our history and the development of our vibrant national character.

As we celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Smithsonian Institution, let us recognize the work done by its many museums, research facilities, and educational endeavors and rededicate ourselves to the "increase and diffusion of knowledge" James Smithson sought to advance. In doing so, we can more fully explore the wonders of our world and continue to bring people together for the common pursuit of knowledge.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and in honor of the memory of James Smithson and to commemorate the accomplishments of the Smithsonian Institution, do hereby proclaim August 10, 1996, as the 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution and urge the people of the United States to observe this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

**Pronunciamento  
del Presidente  
de los Estados Unidos de América**

7 de febrero de 1996

**150avo. Aniversario  
de la Institución Smithsonian**

Cuando James Smithson, un científico inglés, murió en 1829, legó sus bienes en fideicomiso "a los Estados Unidos de América, para fundar, en Washington, bajo el nombre de Institución Smithsonian, una entidad dedicada al enriquecimiento y difusión del conocimiento entre los hombres." Esta herencia extraordinaria, que sumó uno y medio del presupuesto federal para un día, se convirtió en ley de la nación, estableciéndose la Institución Smithsonian. Una vez firmada por el Presidente James Polk el 10 de agosto de 1846, esta legislación creó el Directorio que se encargaría de administrar los fondos de Smithson.

Hoy, 150 años después, la Institución Smithsonian es famosa alrededor del mundo, y todos los días miles de norteamericanos y visitantes del extranjero disfrutan de sus colecciones. A través de dedicadas investigaciones originales, la preservación de colecciones de artefactos únicos y la presentación de exhibiciones y programas públicos, el Smithsonian realmente personifica el sueño de su benefactor. Como uno de los depositarios más importantes de la herencia y cultura americanas, la Institución ofrece conocimientos únicos sobre nuestra historia y el desarrollo de nuestro vibrante carácter nacional.

Al celebrar el 150avo aniversario de la Institución Smithsonian, reconocamos el trabajo realizado por todos sus museos, centros de investigación y programas educativos, y dediquémonos nuevamente al "enriquecimiento y difusión del conocimiento" que James Smithson quiso promover. Al hacerlo podremos explorar más las maravillas de nuestro mundo y continuar agrupando a la gente en búsqueda de la sabiduría para todos.

Por lo tanto, ahora, yo, William J. Clinton, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, por la autoridad que me concede la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos, y en honor a la memoria de James Smithson, y para conmemorar los logros de la Institución Smithsonian, declaro por este medio al 10 de agosto de 1996 como el 150avo. aniversario de la Institución Smithsonian, y exhorto a todos los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos a celebrar este aniversario con las ceremonias y actividades apropiadas.

Y en testimonio de lo dicho, apunto mi firma este día siete de febrero de los mil novecientos noventa y seis años del Señor y los doscientos veinte años de la Independencia de los Estados Unidos de América.

William J. Clinton

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### From the ESP

The 1995 Meteorological and Hydrological Summary for Barro Colorado Island was completed. You may find copies of the summary at the Tupper mail distribution room. For more information please contact Steve Paton.

### At the Office of Education, #340

You will find information on:

- III Congreso Centroamericano de Parasitología y Medicina Tropical
- Field Studies in Latin America (Tropical Bryology)
- Seminario Taller "Hibridización por Medio de Métodos No Radioactivos Utilizando el Slot Blot."
- Masters Programme in Human Ecology at the Free University Brussels, Belgium
- Information on collaborative research between American specialists and their colleagues from the Newly Independent States (Former Soviet Union)
- Oxford Forestry Institute's seminar and short course programmes for 1996.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Softball ••• Bola Suave

Practices of the "Amigos de STRI" summer softball league started last Friday, Feb 2, at the Ft. Amador grounds. All members of the STRI community are invited to join in. For more information please contact Eric Lam at Tupper, José Sánchez at BCI and Cónsul Chamorro at Naos

••• *Las prácticas de Bola Suave de la liga de verano "Amigos de STRI" comenzaron el pasado viernes 2 de febrero en las canchas de Fuerte Amador. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI están invitados a unirse al equipo. Para mayor información favor comunicarse con Eric Lam en el Centro Tupper, José Sánchez en BCI y Cónsul Chamorro en Naos.*

### For Sale

1978 Jeep CJ-7, new engine, duty paid, hard and soft tops, doors, needs body work. \$3900. Call Lee Weigt at 228-6195 evenings.

From the Office of Human Resources

*De la Oficina de Recursos Humanos*

There is a great deal of difference between the eager person who wants to read a book and the tired person who wants a book to read.

Existe una gran diferencia entre la persona que ansiosamente desea leer un libro, y la persona cansada que desea un libro para leer.

G. K. Chesterton

G. K. Chesterton

**The Habit of Reading**

"When I find myself depressed over present conditions," said Roger W. Babson, "I can, within one hour, banish worry and turn myself into a shouting optimist... Here is how I do it. I enter my history library, close my eyes, and reach for a book, not knowing whether I am picking up Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico* or Suetonius' *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*. I then open my eyes and read for an hour; and the more I read, the more sharply I realize that the world has always been in the throes of agony, that civilization has always been tottering on the brink.

**El Hábito de la Lectura**

"Cuando me siento deprimido debido a las condiciones actuales," ha dicho Roger W. Babson, "en el transcurso de una hora, puedo ahuyentar las preocupaciones y convertirme en un decidido optimista... He aquí cómo lo logro. Me dirijo a mi biblioteca de historia, cierro los ojos, y trato de alcanzar un libro, sin saber si voy a tomar *La Conquista de México* de Prescott, o *Las Vidas de los Doce Césares* de Suetonius. Luego abro los ojos y leo por una hora; y mientras más leo, más me doy cuenta que el mundo siempre ha estado debatiéndose y luchando, y que la civilización siempre ha estado tambaleándose al borde del precipicio.

"The pages of history fairly shriek with tragic tales of war, famine, poverty, pestilence, and man's inhumanity to man. After reading history for an hour, I realize that bad as conditions are now, they are infinitely better than they used to be. This enables me to see and face my present troubles in their proper perspective as well as to realize that the world as a whole is constantly growing better."

"Las páginas de la historia gritan con trágicos relatos de guerras, hambre, miseria, pestes, y la deshumanización entre los hombres. Después de leer páginas de la historia por una hora, me doy cuenta de que con todo y lo malo de las condiciones actuales, éstas son infinitamente mejores de lo que solían ser. Esto me permite ver y enfrentarme a mis problemas actuales en su correcta perspectiva, a la vez que me permite ver que el mundo, como un todo, constantemente crece y mejora.

**Sense of Humor**

Wife: "I wish I could find a book to tell us where to go on a vacation this winter.

Husband: "We have one book to tell us where we can't go —our check book."

**Sentido del humor**

Esposa: "Ojalá pudiera encontrar un libro que nos dijera dónde ir de vacaciones este invierno."

Esposo: "Tenemos un libro que nos puede decir dónde ir —nuestra chequera."

Hasta la próxima,