

STRI News

Tupper Center Seminars

Tuesday, March 26, Tupper noon, Jim Carpenter, American Museum of Natural History, NY

The Phylogeny and Biogeography of Paper Wasps

Abstract: Phylogenetic analysis is applied to an investigation of the historical biogeography of paper wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae; Polistinae). Cladistic analyses of the genera, and within the cosmopolitan genus *Polistes*, are used in component analyses of biogeography. Both cladistic biogeographic results do not accord with the hypothesis of Beringean dispersal from a putative center of origin in Southeast Asia, rather, they are consistent with a gondwanian connection, between tropical Africa and tropical South America.

Tuesday, April 9th, Tupper noon, Nigel Asquith, Department of Zoology, Duke University

Does mammal community composition control seedling recruitment in neotropical forests? Evidence from Panama and Venezuela.

Abstract: We investigated rates of seed predation, germination and seedling herbivory in Gatun Lake forests supporting different mammal communities. We placed *Dipteryx panamensis*, *Gustavia superba* and *Virola nobilis* seeds inside and outside wire exclosures. Almost all unprotected seeds were removed, but there was no difference in removal rates between forest types. On small islands all removed seeds were immediately predated, whereas at mainland sites 77% were dispersed and buried by agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*). Protected *D. panamensis* seeds had low germination rates on small islands and *V. nobilis* had low germination on both small islands and BCI. Protection of seedlings from mammalian herbivores increased survivorship by less than twofold on BCI and by more than sixfold on the smallest islands. Extreme mammal defaunation profoundly altered patterns of seedling recruitment. Similar mammal-induced changes in seedling recruitment patterns have been recorded from Lago Guri, Venezuela.

Naos Lab Luncheon Seminars

Fri, Mar 22, Naos Laboratories Luncheon seminar speaker is Vittorio Lucchini, Institute Nazionale per Fauna Selvatica

Hermit Hummingbirds and their Hidden Phylogeny Friday, March 29, Naos Laboratories Luncheon speaker will be James A. Engman, University of Cincinnati, Ohio

Bryopsidalean Algal Systematics: Molecular and Morphological Perspective

People

Arrivals

Steve Emlen and Natalie Demong, Cornell University, Mar 24-20 Apr, to continue studies on the social behavior and breeding biology of the wattled jacana, on Gamboa.

James Carpenter, American Museum of Natural History, NY, Mar 26-3 Apr, to study the phylogenetic relationships of Polistinae (Hymenoptera: Vespidae). He will be stationed at Tupper.

David Clark, La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica, Mar 26-15 Apr, to carry out a project on the demography of *Dipteryx panamensis* on BCI, sponsored by a STRI-OTS-Mellon Tropical Research Award.

Steward West, Imperial College, UK, Mar 26-28 Apr, to work with Allen Herre on non-pollinating wasps associated with figs, at BCI.

Hubert Hertz, Julius von-Sachs Institute, Germany, Mar 28-15 Nov, to work with W. Beyschlag on the influence of leaf-cutting ants on light interception and canopy photosynthesis in crowns of tropical trees, on BCI.

Departures

Ulrich G. Mueller, to Guyana, to survey fungus-growing ants, as part of the Smithsonian Biodiversity program on the Guyanas.

Thank-You Note Agradecimiento

The Director's Office, the Office for External Affairs and the Office of Education wish to thank all STRI staff and volunteers that helped with the inauguration of the Culebra Marine Exhibition Center, the visit of the new Smithsonian Provost, the Bryophytes Seminar Workshop, and activities related to these events --La Oficinas del Director, Asuntos Externos y Educación quieren expresar su agradecimiento a todos los empleados y voluntarios de STRI quienes ayudaron en las actividades relacionadas con la inauguración del Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Culebra, la visita del nuevo "Provost" del Smithsonian, el Seminario Taller de Briofitas, y eventos especiales relacionados con estas actividades.

Things You Should Know

Reminder from the Visitor Services Office

This is a reminder to all STRI staff and visitors, of the current policy in effect about day-visits to Barro Colorado Island. Although the census of the 50 ha. plot is now over, the limited seating aboard the Jacana makes it necessary for the policy to remain unchanged for now. This policy is: on Saturdays we will program 2 regular guided tours, of 15 persons each. No other visitors will be scheduled on Saturdays. On Sundays we will program 1 regular guided tour, of 15 persons. In order to accommodate requests by STRI employees and visitors who may wish to take family and friends, we will schedule no more than 2 "guest" groups each Sunday. These "guest" groups may not exceed 5 persons, including the host/hostess who must accompany the group and act as their guide. The "guest" groups may not be attached to the guided tour. STRI employees and visitors may request space on the regular guided tours, and will be accommodated if space is available. Whenever possible, we will also accommodate "guest" groups, with same limitations, on STRI holidays. All regular tours or "guest" groups must be arranged in advance with the Visitor Services Office. No visitors may be scheduled on week days. The few empty seats on the launch must be kept available for STRI staff and affiliates that must go to BCI on official business or to carry out research. All such visits must be arranged in advance with BCI. VIP visits will continue to be coordinated through the Protocol Office. The launch operators have instructions not to leave the dock with more people than the vessel is licensed to carry. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

From the Security Office --De la Oficina de Seguridad

The Security Office regrets the thefts occurred during the last weeks in which scientific equipment was illegally removed from offices at the Tupper complex. Investigations are being carried out and more security measures have been established. Everybody's cooperation is necessary to clear up the case, and to implement the following security measures:

During non-working hours, weekends and holidays, the only entrance/exit to the Tupper laboratories will be the glass door at the parking lot level. A security guard will be logging all personnel entering and exiting.

Security personnel at all facilities are authorized to check packages, handbags, backpacks and similar, including vehicles leaving the facilities.

Although robberies have been reported, many Tupper users leave their offices' doors unlocked during the day. This practice is not secure, even for short periods of time. Everyone is required to be responsible for the equipment they use and to ensure their safety. We will appreciate that you lock your doors and report immediately to the Security Office any information regarding these cases --- La Oficina de Seguridad de STRI lamenta los incidentes ocurridos en el últimas semanas, donde equipo científico ha sido sustraído ilegalmente de oficinas del complejo Tupper. Se están llevando a cabo las investigaciones pertinentes y se han establecido mayores medidas de seguridad. La cooperación de todos es necesaria para continuar con las investigaciones, deslindar responsabilidades, y con las siguientes medidas de seguridad:

Fuera de horas de trabajo, fines de semana y días feriados se podrá entrar a los laboratorios del Tupper únicamente por la puerta de vidrio al nivel de los estacionamientos. Un guardia de seguridad llevará los registros de las entradas y salidas del personal.

Los guardias de seguridad y el personal de seguridad y protección de STRI están autorizados para revisar el contenido de paquetes, bolsas de mano, mochilas, carteras, etc. que vayan a salir de las instalaciones, al igual que los vehículos.

Hemos observado, que a pesar de que los robos se han reportado, los usuarios de Tupper dejan las puertas de sus oficinas sin trancar durante el día. Esta no es una práctica segura ni siquiera por cortos períodos de tiempo. Cada persona debe ser responsable por el equipo que utiliza y velar por su seguridad. Agradecemos que todos estén más conscientes de trancar sus puertas, al igual que reportar de inmediato cualquier información relacionada a la investigación que pueda ser de interés a la Oficina de Seguridad.

Announcements

Culebra Opens to the Public --- Culebra Abre al Público

On Saturday, March 23, the Culebra Marine Exhibition Center will open to the public from 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. The entrance admission is a donation of 0.50 per person. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Guided tours of school and special groups are from Tuesday to Friday and for reservations please call the STRI's Visitors Office, tel. 227-6022, ext. 2271 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. All the STRI community is welcome to attend ---A partir del sábado 23 de marzo, el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas de Culebra estará abierto al público los sábados y domingos de 9am a 5pm. Para la admisión de entrada se solicitará una donación de 0.50 centavos por persona. Los menores de 12 años deberán estar acompañados por un adulto. Las visitas guiadas para grupos escolares y especiales son de martes a viernes y para reservaciones, favor de llamar a la Oficina de Visitantes de STRI al tel. 227-6022, ext. 2271, los días lunes, miércoles y viernes. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI están bienvenidos.

Oportunidad para Botánico

Se requiere botánico con conocimientos en la flora nativa del área del Canal de Panamá, para proyecto de cultivo de árboles nativos. La oportunidad es por tiempo completo durante seis meses donde se marcarán árboles y se harán colectas de semillas. Los candidatos deberán estar en capacidad para conducir y tener licencia válida. Interesados deben mandar su hoja de vida a PROVICSA, Atención: Adriana de León, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá.

Publications

Colinvaux, Paul A., Liu, K-b. De Oliveira, P.E., Bush, Mark B., Miller, M.C. and Steinitz-Kannan, M. 1996. "Temperature Depression in the Lowland Tropics in Glacial Times." *Climatic Change* 32: 19-33.

Correa, Mireya D. and Salazar-Allen, Noris. 1996. (eds) *Boletín Informativo: Red de Herbarios de Mesoamérica y el Caribe, Año II, Número 1: 1-4*. Panamá: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

McMillan, O. and Bermingham, Eldredge. 1996. "The Patterning of mtDNA Variation in Dall's Porpoise." *Molecular Ecology* 5: 47-61.

Mueller, Ulrich G., Lipari, S.E. and Milgroom, M.G. 1996. "Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP) Fingerprinting of Symbiotic Fungi Cultured by the Fungus-Growing ant *Cyphomyrmex minutus*." *Molecular Ecology* 5: 119-122.

In Recognition of Service --- En Reconocimiento por su Labor

On Fri, Mar 1, Tony Coates presented service pins to a number of STRI employees. Among them were Milton García, Andrés Ramos, Francisco Rivera, Virgilio Sánchez and Audrey Smith, with 10 years of service. Also, Everardo Curney, Alberto González, D. Ross Robertson, Félix Sánchez, Mary Jane West-Eberhard and Don Windsor, with 20 year of service. Mercedes Arroyo, in the photo, received a pin and a special gift for 30 years of service. "Adding the years of service of all these employees, it amounts 200 years!" Congratulations to all --- El viernes 1 de marzo, Tony Coates entregó prendedores por años de servicio a un grupo de empleados de STRI. Entre ellos estaban Milton García, Andrés Ramos, Francisco Rivera, Virgilio Sánchez y Audrey Smith, quienes cumplieron 10 años de servicio. También recibieron prendedores Everardo Curney, Alberto González, D. Ross Robertson, Félix Sánchez, Mary Jane West-Eberhard y Don Windsor, por 20 años de servicio. Mercedes Arroyo, en la foto, recibió un prendedor y un regalo especial por 30 años de servicio. "Sumándolos todos, los años de servicio de estos empleados ascendió a 200 años!" Felicitaciones a todos. (Foto: M. A. Guerra)

Annual Safety Review --- Inspección Anual de Seguridad

Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29, the annual safety review will be performed at all STRI facilities. Everybody is recommended to perform self-inspections to correct common safety violations --- Del lunes 25 de marzo al viernes 29 se realizará la inspección anual de seguridad laboral. Se recomienda a todos llevar a cabo una inspección de sus oficinas para corregir posibles violaciones a la seguridad laboral.