

STRI news

May 7, 1996

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

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, May 7, Tupper Center seminar speaker will be Frode Odegaard, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
Biodiversity and Host Specificity of Chrysomeloidae and Curculionidae in the Canopy of a Tropical Forest in Panama

Abstract

The question of how many insect species there are on earth, has been a central issue for scientists for more than 150 years. Most of the species live in tropical forests and about 2/3 of these are expected to live in the canopy. This habitat is therefore very critical to estimates of the number of species on Earth. One of the most important factors to investigate in this context, is the degree of host specificity of the phytophagous species. This is the background for a cooperation project between the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and STRI. The study area is at the Parque Natural Metropolitano in Panamá where STRI has a Forest Canopy Crane which facilitates work in all layers of the forest canopy. Beetles are collected by hand in the canopy of 24 tree species and 26 liana species throughout the year. Behavioral observations are done to reveal host plants. After 10 months some 30,000 specimens and 1,020 species have been recorded and very tentative evaluations of host specificity are made: 46% polyphagous (recorded from two or more plant species of different families); 18% oligophagous or polyphagous (recorded from more than one plant species of one family); 36% monophagous or oligophagous or polyphagous (recorded from only one plant species). Host specificity averages 12.1% for monophagous phytophagous beetles across all 50 plant species. This percentage is almost certainly too high, since many of these species probably will turn out to be at least oligophagous when more plant species are investigated. If we do the same calculation including the oligophagous species, it is found that host specificity averages 18.2% for oligophagous (including monophagous) phytophagous beetles.

BAMBI TALK

Thursday, May 9, Bambi seminar speaker will be Alejandra Jaramillo, Universidad de los Andes
Phenology of bromeliads in a Colombian Cloud Forest

NAOS LABS LUNCHEON

Friday, May 10, Naos Laboratories Luncheon seminar speaker will be Carlos Machado

Fig Wasps and their Nematodes: Molecular Clocks and Nearly Neutral Mutations

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Stephen Yanoviak, University of Oklahoma, May 10-30 Aug. to study the ecology of animal communities in water filled tree holes on BCI.

Departures

- Paul Colinvaux, May-26, to visit the Indian University, the University of Minnesota and the Chicago Field Museum where will present a lecture. Will also visit the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Library.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Changes in Telephone Programming

Comtel, the company in charge of the installation of the new telephone system at STRI, is almost finished with the programming the units at Tupper/Tivoli and Naos. If you need any changes, or some other feature that you don't presently have (like voice mail activated at the fourth tone) or have any comments, please send them to Fernando Bouche via e-mail or call him at Tupper, ext 2290 by end of business on Tuesday 7 May 1996. After this date, all requests will be considered a service call and there will be a fee. All old and new request will be processed from May 6-13.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

U.S. Saving Bonds Campaign

Campaña de Ahorro con Bonos de los E.U.
The Smithsonian will conduct its annual U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign from May 1-31. "Today's Decision, Tomorrow's Security" is the theme of this year's campaign. Brochures and authorization cards have been distributed to the different facilities for those employees interested in investing in the Savings Bond Campaign. Completed Saving Bonds enrollment forms should be send to Annie Sloper, SI Payroll Office, 955 L'Enfant

Plaza 7500, MRC 910. Any other question not clear in the brochure, please call the Office of Human Resources, at Tivoli ••• El Smithsonian llevará a cabo su campaña anual para promover los ahorros comprando bonos del estado desde el 1 de mayo hasta el 31. El tema de la campaña de este año es "La Decisión de Hoy es la Seguridad del Mañana." Hay panfletos y tarjetas de autorización para descuentos en los diferentes sitios de trabajo de STRI para aquellos interesados. Una vez llenadas las formas deberán enviarse a Annie Sloper, SI Payroll Office, 955 L'Enfant Plaza 7500, MRC 910. Si hay preguntas sobre el programa que no estén claras en los panfletos, favor llamar a la oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tivoli.

BOOK REVIEWS

Field Guide to the Mangroves of Queensland

Sometimes at STRI we note a colleague's book, or even a paper if it reaches *Science* or *Nature*. Catherine Lovelock's production, a slick 72p mini guide published by the Australian Institute of Marine Science and illustrated by Steve Clarke is not a new book (1993) but I'd never seen it before. It is a nicely bound, pocket size (10.5 x 14.5cm) booklet which demonstrates cleverness of presentation, clarity of text, and beautiful illustrations. A bit parochial for an ex-Australian audience you think? Not so, for the title is modest and many of the plants and their habitats are familiar to New Worlders. Educators and conservation folks could do well to mimic this little beauty. *Neal G. Smith*

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Adler, Gregory H.** 1995. "Fruit and Seed Exploitation by Central American Spiny Rats, *Proechimys semispinosus*." *Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment* 30(4): 237-244.
- Allen, Gerarld R. and Robertson, D. Ross.** 1996. *Xyrichtys wellingtoni*, a new species of wrasse (Labridae) from Clipperton Island, tropical eastern Pacific. *Revue française Aquariologie* 22: 80-82.
- Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley.** 1996. "Estudios Botánicos de Henry Pittier de Fábrega en Panamá 1897-1915." *"Epocas" Segunda Era* Marzo: 3.
- Kalko, Elisabeth K.V.** 1995. "Echolocation Signal Design, Foraging Habitats and Guild Structure in Six Neotropical Sheath-Tailed Bats (Emballonuridae)." *Symposium of the Zoological Society of London* 67: 259-273.

- Marston, Andrew, Dudan, Guy, Gupta, Mahabir P., Solis, Fable N., Correa, Mireya D. and Hostettmann, Kurt.** "Screening of Panamanian Plants for Molluscicidal Activity." *International Journal of Pharmacognosy* 34(1): 15-18.
- Robertson, D. Ross.** 1996. "Interspecific Competition Controls Abundance and Habitat Use of Territorial Caribbean Damsel Fishes." *Ecology* 77: 885-899.
- Rodríguez Vargas, Ariel Rodrigo and Matías Beitía, Félix Antonio.** 1996. Diversidad de Himenópteros Usuarios de Trampas-Nidos, sus Parasitoides y sus Preferencias de Anidación en Península Gigante. Thesis. Panamá: Universidad de Panamá.
- Solis, Frank A., Ibáñez, Roberto and Jaramillo, César.** 1996. "Estableciendo una Uniformidad Sobre las Especies de Serpientes Presentes en Panamá." *Revista Biológica Tropical* 44(1): 19-22.
- Willis, Christopher.** 1996. "Safety in Diversity." *New Scientist* March 23: 38-42.
- Windsor, Donald M., Valverde de Macedo, Margarete and de Toledo Siqueira-Campos, Antonio.** 1995. "Flower Feeding by Species of *Echoma* Chevrolat (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae) on *Mikania* (Asteraceae) in Panama and Brazil." *The Coleopterists Bulletin* 49(2): 101-108.

MISCELLANEOUS

■ Balboa High School Concert

On Thursday, May 9, there will be a music band, orchestra and chorus at the BHS Auditorium, at 7pm. Members of the STRI community Oryana Racines, Aika Barrios and Lizzy Leigh are fiddling. Everybody is welcome.

■ House Sitter ••• Cuidador/a de Casa

David Roubik needs a house sitter for one month (July-August). Must take care of pets and communicate with the family. Interested please call 286-3421 ••• *David Roubik necesita una persona que cuide su casa y sus mascotas por un mes, de julio a agosto, mientras esté ausente. También deberá comunicarse con la familia. Interesados favor llamar al 286-3421.*

■ For Sale

Sonny 8mm video camera (1991 model) 8x, color viewfinder, recent overhaul, excellent condition. Complete windsurfing rig, two boards, 2 sails, mast boom, universal. Interested please call Ken Clifton at Naos, ext 3344.