



## STRI NEWSLETTER

#13  
April 2nd, 1982

### HOLIDAY NEXT WEEK

April 9th, Good Friday, is an official holiday in the Republic of Panama, and a holiday for STRI employees. The STRI Library will also close on Saturday, April 10th.

Please keep in mind that due to Holy Week observances, some business establishments will be closed on Thursday afternoon. The government offices have not announced as yet if they will be closed on Thursday in addition to Friday. Banks will close Thursday at 11 a.m.

### SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar on Tuesday, April 6th will be given by THEO JACOBS, STRI Short-term Fellow, Wageningen University, The Netherlands who will speak on:

Bufo typhonius: a toad, a polymorphism

This seminar will be given in the Ancon Conference Room.

and

This evening at 6 p.m. in the Biblioteca Simon Bolivar, Universidad de Panama, DR. ROBERT DRESSLER, will be giving a seminar on:

Orquídeas de Panamá

This is part of the series of seminars organized by the AECAP (Asociación Estudiantil para la Conservación Ambiental de Panamá).

### ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

April 6 - Leaving, Dr. Ira Rubinoff on official business to the U.S. and England. He is expected back at STRI around the end of April.

April 7 - Leaving, Dr. David Roubik for Brazil, where he will be consulting with colleagues and giving a series of conferences in different Brazilian cities.

April 8 - Leaving, Dr. Robert Dressler on official business to Medellin, Colombia, to consult with colleagues working on orchids in the Chocó region of Colombia. He will be accompanied by his wife, Kerry and they are expected back in mid-April.

### LEAVING this week:

Jane Shuttleworth, for Costa Rica and Mike MacDonagh, who has been at STRI for two years, studying the behavior and ecology of Aotus.

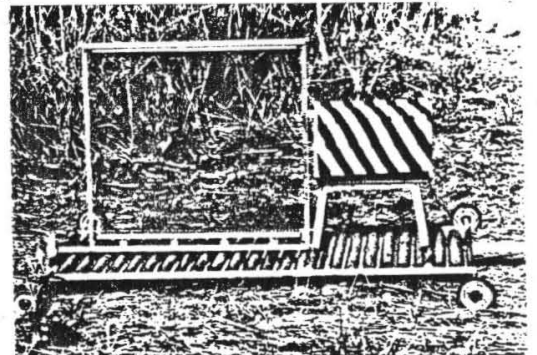
### NOTES OF INTEREST

- In the absence of Dr. M. Denny, Drs. Haris Lessios and Ross Robertson will be sharing the duties of Marine Sciences Coordinator.

- We wish a PROMPT RECOVERY to María Luz Jiménez who was recently hospitalized at the Centro Médico Paitilla. She is in Room 145 for those who would like to call or visit.

- A recent break-in at the Naos Trailer resulted in the loss of valuable equipment and cash belonging to STRI visiting researchers. You are reminded to guard your belongings carefully and that it is preferable to keep large sums of cash in one of the STRI safes, and equipment under lock and key.

-Rudyard Kipling (1908) made popular the hypothesis that a zebra's stripes serve as camouflage against detection by vertebrate predators, such as lions and hyenas. But in a recent paper published in the Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa Jeffrey Waage, former STRI Fellow, now a professor at Imperial College in London, proposes a different hypothesis. Waage suggests that "the stripes are an adaptation against visually orienting biting flies and act by obliterating the stimulus presented by a large dark form, which is important in host-finding by many Diptera! To support the hypothesis Waage performed a field experiment comparing fly catches on moving and stationary black, white and striped models, such as the one below, and found that striped models caught significantly fewer tsetse and other flies than solid black or white models, "but this difference was much reduced in the presence of olfactory attractants".



Striped model used in the experiment. It is 37 cm in diameter and 53 cm long, the screen is a 1-m square. Stripes are about 5 cm wide and continue on to the front of the model, which was not electrified.