

STRI news

September 12, 1997

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

CHARLA DEL MES

STRI y el Patronato del Parque Natural Metropolitano, le invitan a la XVI Charla Smithsonian del Mes, que será dictada por Don Windsor el miércoles 24 de septiembre, 7:30pm, Salón Las Oropéndolas, Centro de Visitantes del PNM

Por Qué Hay 10,000 Tipos de Escarabajos en Panamá?

Resumen

Los trópicos tienen de 5 a 100 veces más formas de vida que las regiones más frías de los países industrializados. Del millón de formas de vida conocidas para nuestro planeta 700,000 son insectos. Tres cuartas partes de los insectos pertenecen a la familia de los escarabajos, es decir los Coleópteros. Para Panamá se conocen 10,000 tipos de escarabajos. Esta charla describirá por qué los escarabajos son tan diversos y abundantes en Panamá y en los trópicos. Para esclarecer esta pregunta se analizará un grupo muy diverso de los escarabajos que comen hojas, la familia Chrysomelidae. Se describirá la distribución de estos escarabajos que dependen de las hojas, su adaptación a las plantas de Panamá y cómo el hábito de comer plantas ha podido promover la diversificación de estos escarabajos.



Stanley Heckadon (left) presents D. Ross Robertson to the audience at the Smithsonian Talk of the Month in the Oropendolas Room, Metropolitan Nature Park, on Wed, Aug 27. The title of the talk was "Reefs and Fish of the Pacific Coast of Panama" ••• Stanley Heckadon (izquierda), presenta a D. Ross Robertson a la audiencia de la Charla Smithsonian del Mes en el Salón Las Oropéndolas, Parque Natural Metropolitano, el miércoles, 27 de agosto. El título de la charla fue "Arrecifes y Peces de la Costa Pacífica de Panamá". (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Sabine Huhndorf and Fernando Fernández, Field Museum, Illinois, Sep 14-27, to carry out studies in the Lasiosphaeriaceae: Monographs of two genera and a family, at BCI.
- Alan Grinnell, University of California, Sep 14-24, to carry out comparative studies of echolocating strategies in bats, at BCI.
- Elizabeth Losos, CTFS, Sep 14-19, to meet with members of the Yasuni Forest Dynamics Project, Ecuador, who will be visiting Panama.
- Dawn Marsh, Sep 15, to work on John Pickering's project on the diversity and trophic interactions of parasitic wasps (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), at BCI.

- Mark Travassos, Short-term fellow from Harvard University, Sep 15 - Dec 15, to work on the interspecific acoustic communication in a butterfly-ant mutualism, in Gamboa.
- Michael Rosenberg, Short-term fellow from State University of New York, Sep 15 - Dec 15, to work on the study of combat and morphology in fiddler crabs, at Naos.
- Martin Wikelski, Post-doctoral fellow from the University of Washington, Sep 15-30, to study the physiological mechanisms of reproductive seasonality in the rainforest dwelling spotted antbird, in Gamboa.
- Renato Valencia, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Sep 15-29, for meetings with CTFS personnel.
- Sara May, Short-term fellow from Duke University, Sep 16 - Dec 19, to study the sources of zooplankton to coral reef ecosystems, at San Blas.
- John Choat, James Cook University, Australia, Sep 17-28, to study the validation of age structuring in sagittal otoliths of San Blas.
- Tamar and Dennis Goulet, State University of New York, Sep 17 - Oct 2, to study the mutualism between a coral and its algae: gerotipically static or dynamic over environment?
- Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Sep 17, after a sabbatical in Switzerland.

Departures

- Héctor Guzmán, Sep 13-20, to Venezuela, invited by the U.S. Park Services and the Servicio de Parques de Venezuela, to investigate

coral mortality in the Morrocoy National Park.

- Nancy Knowlton, Sep 17-26, to Curacao, Netherland Antilles, to do research on coral spawning.

Congratulations ••• Felicitaciones

To Gabriel and Lilisbeth Martínez, for the birth of their daughter, Giselle Martínez Correa, on Tuesday, September 9 ••• *A Gabriel y Lilisbeth Martínez, por el nacimiento de su hija, Giselle Martínez Correa, el día martes, 9 de septiembre.*

Tamiji Inoue Dies in Accident

Tamiji Inoue, of Kyoto University, was killed in a plane crash in Sarawak, Malaysia, on the evening of September 6, along with ten more passengers. Inoue, a young visionary leader in Japanese ecology, spent a year at STRI on a fellowship several years ago. He was a close collaborator of David Roubik and many members of Center for Tropical Forest Science. Tamiji Inoue is survived by his wife, Eiko, and their children, Ayako and Takeshi. Mail can be sent to them at the Entomological Laboratory, College of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606, Japan.



Recently, Francisco Guanti (center) received a special award in recognition of many years as a highly dependable and helpful member of the Procurement Department. Guanti is a one-man team responsible for the delivery of equipment, mail and supplies to Gamboa. In the photo, Leopoldo León and Mercedes Arroyo present him with the certificate of award ••• Recientemente, Francisco Guanti (centro) recibió un premio en reconocimiento por muchos años de ser un miembro altamente responsable y cooperador del Departamento de Compras. Guanti está encargado de transportar equipo, correo y suministros a Gamboa. En la foto, Leopoldo León y Mercedes Arroyo entregan el certificado del premio. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Panama Canal Exhibit**

The Panama Canal Exhibit is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. Free entrance until September 30, 1997.

■ **For Interneters**

The *Smithsonian Year 1996* is now on-line located in the "resources" section of the SI Website under "On-line publications".

■ **SI Telephone Directory 1997**

A limited number of the new SI Telephone Directory 1997 are still available at the Office of Education #330. If you are not at the Tupper-Tivoli complex, please feel free to e-mail CALDEROM for a copy.

■ **Stock Reduction Sale**

The STRI Mini-Bookstore is having a Stock Reduction Sale on a number of books until Friday September 26.

STRI IN THE NEWS

Un Día en la Isla de Barro Colorado, por Amalia Aguilar Nicolau. *La Prensa*, Miércoles 20 de agosto de 1997: 1C.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

Jaramillo, César, Rand, A. Stanley, Ibáñez, Roberto and Dudley, Robert. 1997. "Elastic Structures in the Vocalization Apparatus of the Túngara Frog *Physalaemus pustulosus* (Leptodactylidae)." *Journal of Morphology* 233: 287-295.

Zotz, Gerhard. 1997. "Substrate Use of Three Epiphytic Bromeliads." *Ecography* 20: 264-270.

Zotz, Gerhard, Patiño, Sandra and Tyree, Melvin T. 1997. "CO₂ Gas Exchange and the Occurrence of CAM in Tropical Woody Hemiepiphytes." *Flora* 192: 143-150.