

STRI news '98

Thsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, June 12, 1998

Week's Seminars

■ Stephen Phelps, University of Texas at Austin will give the Tupper noon seminar on Tue, Jun 16. He will speak on the historical influences of species recognition: neural networks and Túngara frogs.

Arrivals

■ Marc Van der Linde and Coenraad Kriger, from Leiden University, The Netherlands, will work at Tupper from Jun 14 through Nov 24, on life history evolution in *Drosophila*.

■ Five Earthwatch volunteers will be assisting Nancy Garwood, of the Natural History Museum, UK., on BCI, from Jun 15-30, on a field test of the illustrated guide of seedlings of BCI and adjacent Panama.

■ Calvin Walker, a James Webb Intern in the U.S. International University in California, to work with the Office of Education at Tivoli from Jun 15 to Aug 15, on tropical ecology courses: a survey of comparable courses and market costs.

■ Robert Srygley, from the University of Washington, will be in Gamboa from Jun 16 through Jul 7, to study the orientation of butterflies migrating across the Caribbean and Panama; mating behavior of owl butterflies; butterfly systematics.

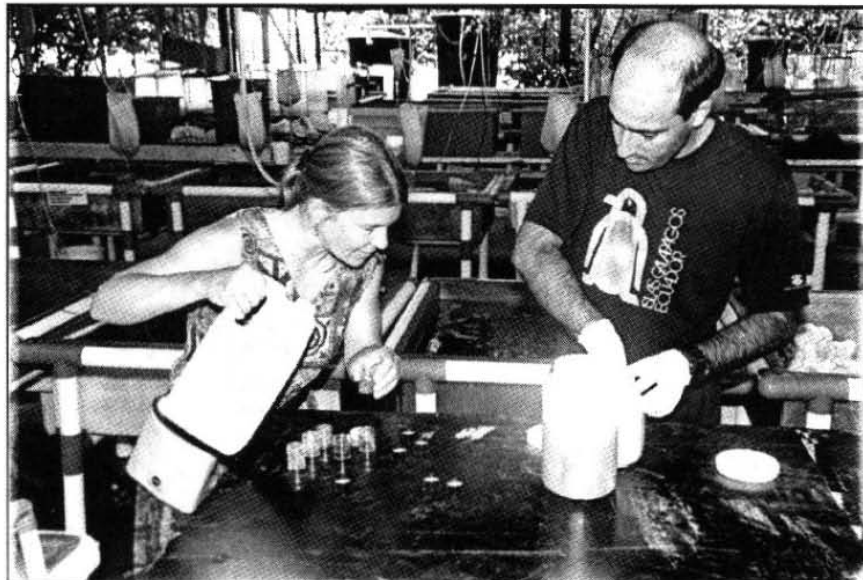
■ Jayne Yack, from Carleton University in Canada, will be at Tupper from June 18-28, to work on the auditory systems in butterflies.

■ Sabrina Russo, from the University of Illinois, will be at Gamboa from Jun 18 through Aug 30, to study the proximate factors influencing structure and behavioral dynamics of mixed species of antwren flocks in Panama.

II Interactions Symposium at STRI

STRI held its II Interactions Symposium at the Tupper Center on Wednesday, June 10. The first Interactions Symposium was held on March 18 under the coordination of Allen Herre. The first meeting covered different aspects of ecology, genetics, physiology, chemistry, behavior, history, culture and evolution. On June 10 symposium, twelve scientists participated with talks. Bob Stallard: *Puerto Rican landslides and the succession of interactions across landscapes*; Irby Lovette: *The phylogenetic structure and history of warbler radiations: a temperate and tropical warbler radiations*; Jenny Apple: *Effects of variation in resource availability on complex species interactions*; Ulrich Muller: *Sensory biases and artificial selection of symbionts cultivated by fungus-growing ants*; Courtney Murren:

*Are islands islands? Genetic structure of *Catantop viridiflavus**; Rex Cocroft: *If you'd only listen*; DeWayne Shoemaker: *Wolbachia in Fig Wasp Communities: radiations, sweeps, and reproductive manipulation*; Koos Boomsma: *Interactions between Acromyrmex leaf cutter ants and their social parasites*; Wes Toller: *Zooxanthellae in reef corals: Interactions between genotypes... or what?*; Cameron Currie: *Fungal parasitism of leaf-cutting ant gardens: attack of the killer *Escovopsis**; Don Windsor: *Beetle mites and mite beetles*; Jerry Howard: *Responses of dominant plant species in the BCNM to removal of mammals and insects*. According to Herre, about 40 people attended the second symposium. Due to the success of these one-day meetings, a third interactions symposium will be organized in the near future.



Visiting scientist Janie Wulff from Middlebury College compares sponge specimens from the Pacific and the Atlantic at the Naos Sea Water pavillion. Also in the photo is predoctoral fellow Juan Maté, from the University of Miami, who collaborated with her in collecting specimens from the Pacific ... Janie Wulff, investigadora visitante de Middlebury College, compara especímenes de esponjas del Pacífico y el Atlántico en el pabellón de agua salada de Naos. También en la foto, está Juan Maté, becario predoctoral de la Universidad de Miami, quien colaboró con ella colectando especímenes en el Pacífico.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

The STRI news is published weekly
by the STRI Office of
Fellowships and Education

Maria Luz Calderon: Editor
Georgina de Alba: Director
Marcos Guerra: Photographic Services

Lombardo, D'Croz and Heckadon to World Expo '98

Lombardo, D'Croz y Heckadon a Expo '98 Lisboa

Elena Lombardo, Assistant Director for External Affairs, Scientist Luis D'Croz and Stanley Heckadon, Special Advisor to the Director will travel to Lisbon, Portugal, to represent STRI at the Panama pavillion in the World's Expo '98, at the invitation of IPAT and Panama Expo '98 Commissioner earlier in the year. The Expo '98 Lisboa, the last of the millenium, will have the Oceans as its central theme and will be open for 120 days, from May 22 to September 30. The Panamanian pavillion theme is "Los Océanos, un Patrimonio para el Futuro" [The Oceans, a Legacy for the Future]. STRI will participate with the exhibit "Panama: One Isthmus and Two Oceans" and a new bilingual brochure, prepared by Marco Díaz from the Office of Education. On June 16, Elena Lombardo will present a STRI general overview. Stanley Heckadon will give the lecture Panama: Biological and Cultural Bridge of the Americas, and Luis D'Croz will the

lecture The Isthmus of Panama: Where the Continent Meets and Two Oceans are Born. STRI officials at Expo '98 Lisboa will also take this opportunity to present the books by Stanley Heckadon *Naturalistas del Istmo de Panama* [Naturalists of the Isthmus of Panama] and *Central America: A Natural and Cultural History*, by Anthony Coates. On display at the exhibit will be the book by Allen and Robertson, *Fishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific* *** Elena Lombardo, Directora Adjunta para Asuntos Externos, Luis D'Croz, Científico, y Stanley Heckadon-Moreno, Asesor Especial del Director, viajarán a Lisboa, Portugal, a representar a STRI en el pabellón de Panamá en Expo '98 Lisboa, por invitación de la Comisaria de Panamá Expo '98 a principios del año. La Feria Mundial Expo 98 Lisboa, la última del milenio que tiene como tema central los Océanos, se mantendrá abierta por 120 días, del 22 de mayo al 30 de septiembre. El tema del pabellón de Panamá es "Los Océa-

nos, un Patrimonio para el Futuro." STRI participará con la exhibición "Panamá: Un Istmo y Dos Océanos", y un brochure bilingüe para exhibición preparado por Marco Díaz, de la Oficina de Educación. El día 16 de junio Elena Lombardo presentará una charla de introducción general a STRI y sus oportunidades. Stanley Heckadon dará una conferencia sobre "Panamá: Puente Biológico y Cultural de las Américas, y Luis D'Croz dará una conferencia sobre "El Istmo de Panamá: Donde Se Une Un Continente y Nacen Dos Océanos. Los funcionarios de STRI en Expo '98 Lisboa aprovecharán esta oportunidad para presentar los libros de Stanley Heckadon, "Naturalistas del Istmo de Panama" y "Central America: A Natural and Cultural History" [Centroamérica: Historia Natural y Cultural], por Anthony Coates. En el pabellón de Panamá también se exhibirá el libro de Allen y Robertson "Fishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific" [Peces del Pacífico Tropical Oriental].

Departures

- Olga Linares will be in France from Jun 14 through Sep 30. She will continue research on the Diola peoples and will prepare for field work in Senegal.
- David Roubik will leave from June 14 through Jul 18. He will work at SERC, in Washington D.C., will take some days off and also attend the AIBS meetings in Baltimore, MD.
- Ira Rubinoff, will be in Boston and New York on official business, from Jun 19-23.

Leaving STRI

Deja a STRI

Orlando Hernández leaves STRI to work as assistant curator of the Panama Canal Museum. He recently graduated from USMA in communications with a thesis on folklore studies. Hernández started working for STRI as a volunteer during the Coral Reefs Symposium in 1996 in the reception desk. He was hired later that year as receptionist and assistant to the Tupper manager.



Hernández will be replaced by Lourdes Vejas (second from the left), who worked in his place during his absence while he was in Spain on a fellowship. We wish Orlando and Lourdes success in their new positions *** Orlando Hernández deja a STRI para trabajar como asistente de curador en el Museo del Canal de Panamá. Meses atrás se graduó en comunicación en la USMA, con una tesis sobre estudios folklóricos

Hernández empezó a trabajar en Tupper como voluntario en la recepción durante el Simposio de Arrecifes Coralinos en 1996. Más tarde obtuvo el trabajo de recepcionista y asistente de la administración del Tupper. Lourdes Vejas (segunda de izquierda a derecha) quien trabajó como recepcionista cuando Hernández viajó a España con una beca de intercambio, lo reemplazará. A ambos les deseamos éxito en sus nuevos trabajos.