

STRI news '98

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, June 19, 1998

Week's Seminars Bocas del Toro Station Up and Running

■ Karen Warkentin, from the University of Texas will give the Tupper noon seminar on Tuesday, June 23. She will talk about the phenotypic plasticity in hatching red-eyed tree frog eggs. For more information about the Tupper Center Seminars please e-mail Neal Smith at smithn@tivoli.si.edu.

■ The Bambi of Thursday, June 25 will feature three students' work in progress on BCI. Talks will be of 15 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions and suggestions. The speakers are Mirna Santana, from the University of Panama, speaking about the specificity of fungi on tree seedlings and their role in affecting the seedling community composition. Melissa Panger, from the University of California at Berkeley, talking about hand-use patterns in free ranging white-faced capuchins, *Cebus capuchinus*. Then Kristina Hufford, from the University of Georgia, will talk about selection across early life stages in *Platypodium elegans*.

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI or e-mail: bambi@bci.si.edu

Arrivals

■ Elizabeth Royte will be on BCI from Jun 15 through Aug 14, looking for research material for a future book.

■ Delsio Moreno, from the Brecha-Ibasiriri community and Nelson Justiniano, from Aguarati, Bolivia, will visit STRI from Jun 18-29, to learn about environmental education programs, and then attend the Kuna General Congress in Cartí.

■ María Laura Ponssa, Short-term fellow from the Instituto de Herpetología, Argentina, Jun 20 - Sep 20, to conduct on BCI the project "Utilización espacial y temporal de las especies de *Leptodactylus* (Anura, Leptodactylidae) en cuerpos de agua de Isla de Barro Colorado".

■ Tim Moore and Edward English, from Cornell University, to work on Catherine Fortin's project on the effects of CO₂ enrichment on carbon storage and species growth in a tropical mixed-species

Se Establece Estación en Bocas del Toro

STRI formalized a purchase agreement of a six hectare lot of land on the thinnest strip of Isla Colón in Bocas del Toro, on Wednesday, June 17. The R/V *Urracá* is estimated to arrive at dawn on Saturday, June 20, with cargo and boats from San Blas. Participating in this operation are José C. Espino, Reynaldo Tapia, Gabriel Jácome, Fernando Caballero, José Barahona and the rest of the *Urracá* crew. Aníbal Velarde should arrive on Sunday afternoon with equipment from Galeta, and will be in charge of setting up the sea water system and aquaria. Laboratory facilities will be available, as well as storage area, six boats, a 4WD pick up vehicle and 4 bicycles. Future plans for the site include construction of a purpose designed laboratory building, accommodations and dining facilities. In the meantime, accommodations may be arranged by renting a house or by staying at a local hotel. Mercedes Denis may be contacted for future general arrangements to the Bocas Station. Héctor Guzmán, STRI, has an ongoing project in Bocas, and starting July 1st, Mary Alice Coffroth, and Howard Lasker, from the University of Buffalo, will initiate their research projects too. Anne Meylan from Florida Marine Research Institute, and Peter Meylan, from Eckerd College, will continue monitoring of their turtle project in Zapatilla Island, in July as well. Erin Questad, from the University of Utah, will be doing terrestrial research ••• STRI formalizó el acuerdo de compra de un lote de seis hectá-

reas en el área más estrecha de Isla Colón en Bocas del Toro. Se estima que el R/V *Urracá* llegará al atardecer del sábado 20 de junio con una carga en equipo y botes de San Blas. En esta operación participarán José Espino, Reynaldo Tapia, Gabriel Jácome, Fernando Caballero, José Barahona y el resto del equipo del *Urracá*. Aníbal Velarde debe llegar en la tarde del domingo con un camión con equipo de Galeta, y estará a cargo de establecer el sistema de agua salada y los acuarios. Habrán instalaciones para laboratorios al igual que área de almacenamiento, seis botes, un vehículo de doble tracción y cuatro bicicletas. Los planes futuros incluyen la construcción de un edificio específicamente para laboratorios, dormitorios y comedor. Mientras tanto, se puede rentar una casa o se pueden usar los hoteles. Mercedes Denis estará a cargo de los arreglos futuros para el uso de la estación de STRI en Bocas. Héctor Guzmán, STRI, tiene un proyecto en Bocas y a partir del 1ro de julio, Mary Alice Coffroth y Howard Lasker, de la Universidad de Buffalo iniciarán sus proyectos también. Ane Meylan, de Florida Marine Research Institute y Peter Meyland, de Eckerd College, continuarán su monitoreo en su proyecto de investigación de tortugas en Isla Zapatilla, también en julio. Erin Questad, de la Universidad de Utah, llevará a cabo investigaciones terrestres en Bocas, a partir de agosto. Harry Barnes

plantation ecosystem.

■ Irma Ouguin, San Diego State University, Jun 22-29, to study the genetic structure and reproductive isolation in the sea urchin *Ardaccia incisa* (Agassiz), at the Naos Laboratories.

■ Andrew Baker, from the University of Miami, will continue his research on the symbiosis ecology of scleractinian corals.

■ Scott Mangan, from the University of Wisconsin, will be in Fortuna from Jun 23 through Aug 1, to join Gregory Adler's project on the rodent diversity and abundance in cloud forests of western Panama.

■ Mary Alice Coffroth, University of Buffalo, Jun 24 - Jul 30, to study the ontogeny and dynamics of cnidarian-algal symbiosis.

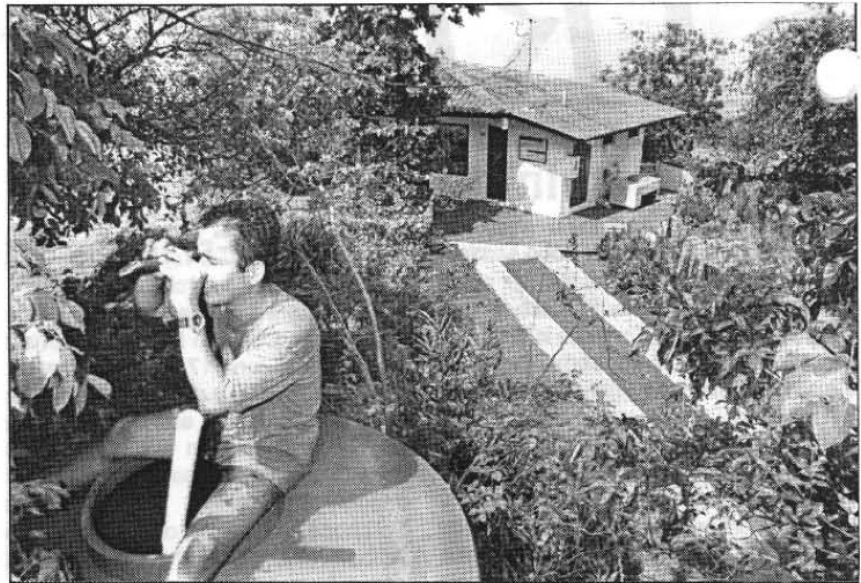
- Maral Kasparian, from the University of California at Davis, will be on BCI from Jun 24 through Aug 30, to work with David Marsh, on the effects of breeding pond abundance and distribution on the behavior and population dynamics of a tropical frog.
- Howard Lasker, University of Buffalo, Jun 24 through July 23, to study the broadcast spawning and the population ecology of coral reef invertebrates, at the Bocas del Toro Station on Isla Colón.

Departures

- Jeremy Jackson, Jun 19 - Jul 21, to Basel, Switzerland, to attend a workshop at the Museum, and then on a short vacation.
- Haris Lessios, Jun 20 - 25, to Vancouver, Canada, to attend the meetings of the Society for the Study of Evolution.
- Héctor Guzmán, Jun 22-30, to Costa Rica, to continue monitoring of octocoral populations.
- Cecilio Puga, Jun 24 - 30, to Syracuse, NY, to attend a congress on identification of microfungi at the University of New York, and to Newark, NJ., to visit Rutgers University and consult with colleagues.
- Joe Wright, Jun 26 - Aug 10, to Columbus, Ohio, and Vancouver, Canada, on vacation. He will also be travelling to Florence, Italy, to attend the International Congress of Ecology, to Washington D.C., to attend the CTFS meetings, and Baltimore, MD, to the Ecological Society of America and the Association for Tropical Biology Meetings.

STRI news in the Web

Web manager Julio Aguilar, from the Office of Information Technology is working with María Luz Calderon, from the Office of Education, to offer the STRI in the Web with the same information as the printed one plus details on training opportunities, congresses, etc. Photographs will be in color and it will have the links to cumulative information on arrivals, new publications, etc. We will announce the Web newsletter as soon as it is ready •• Julio Aguilar, de la Oficina de Informática está trabajando con María Luz Calderón, de la Oficina de Educación, para ofrecer a STRI un boletín en el Web. El boletín del Web tendrá a misma información del boletín impreso e información adicional sobre las oportunidades de entrenamiento, congresos,



Ruben Merel, Culebra aquarist, prepares sea water in a 1,200 gal tank that will supply the aquaria in the near future. In the photo, he uses a refractometer to measure the salinity of water for Caribbean organisms that will be in the tanks as soon as the new aquaria system is completed •• Ruben Merel, de los acuarios de Culebra prepara

agua de mar en un tanque de 1200 gal. que suplirá de agua a los acuarios próximamente. En la foto, Merel usa un refractómetro para medir la salinidad del agua para organismos del Mar Caribe que se mantendrán en los tanques tan pronto esté listo el nuevo sistema acuarios. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

etc. El boletín del Web tendrá fotografías en color, y enlaces a información acumulativa sobre personas que han llegado al Instituto, las nuevas publicaciones, etc. Anunciaremos el boletín del Web tan pronto aparezca en su pantalla.

New Publications

- Chai, Peng, Chang, Andrew C. and Dudley, Robert. 1998. "Flight Thermogenesis and Energy Conservation in Hovering Hummingbirds." *The Journal of Experimental Biology* 201: 963-968.
- Martin, Andrew P. 1998. "Systematics and Evolution of Lower Central American Cichlids Inferred from analysis of Cytochrome b Gene Sequences." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 9(2): 192-203.
- Pandolfi, John M. and Greenstein, B.J. 1997. "Preservation of Community Structure in Death Assemblages of Deep-Water Caribbean Reef Corals." *Limnology and Oceanography* 42(7): 1505-1516.

Stutchbury, B.J.M., Morton, E.S. and Piper, W.H. 1998. "Extra-Pair Mating System of a Synchronously Breeding Tropical Songbird." *Journal of Avian Biology* 29(1): 72-78.

Telford, S.R. and Jennions, M.D. 1998. "Establishing Cryptic Female Choice in Animals." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 13: 216-218.

Zotz, Gerhard and Andrade, José Luis. 1998. "Water Relations of Two Co-Occurring Epiphytic Bromeliads." *Journal of Plant Physiology* 152: 545-554.

Classified Adds

■ Se venden cachorros dálmatas puros, de 8 semanas. Hay machos y hembras. Interesados favor ponerse en contacto con Ricardo Racines al 276-6306.

■ Please send empty 2-liter plastic bottles to Andrés Orellana, on BCI •• Se le agradecerá a todos los que envíen botellas plásticas de dos litros a Andrés Orellana, en BCI