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# STRI news '99

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Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, April 20, 1999

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## At Tupper

Tuesday, April 27, noon seminar speaker at Tupper will be Eric J. Warrant, Lunds Universitet, Sweden

*How Will Do Nocturnal Insects See at Night?*

## Bambi Seminars

Wednesday, April 21, Bambi seminar speaker will be Kirstin Milhahn, University of Bielefeld

*What Does it Cost the Forest to Have Howler Monkeys? A Study of the Amount of Damage Caused by Alouatta palliata*

Thursday, April 22, Bambi seminar speaker will be Almut Kelber, Lunds university in Sweden.

*Ovipositing Butterflies Use a Red Receptor to See Green Leaves.*

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call the BCI at 272-2124, ☒ Bambi

## Arrivals

- Jennifer Nesbitt, University of Illinois, Apr 17 - Oct 15, to work on the reproductive ecology of two species of Formicariidae: demographic parameters and environmental influence and on the reproductive ecology of spotted antbirds (*Hylophylax naevoides*), in Gamboa.
- Eric Warrant, short-term visitor from Lunds Universitet, Sweden, with Lars Fosberg and Almut Kelber, Apr 18 - May 9, to study the optics and visual performance of tropical nocturnal bees, on BCI.
- Owen McMillan, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Apr 20-28, to discuss a joint molecular project on

## Biological Prospecting Agreement

### *Convenio para Prospección Biológica*

On Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, an agreement was signed between Director Ira Rubinoff and Mirei Endara, General Administrator of the Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente, ANAM, to initiate a program designed to link conservation of Panamanian biodiversity with bioprospecting for novel products for medicine and agriculture. The agreement has a duration of five years that is automatically renewable for an additional five-year period.

Much of the work associated with the bioprospecting project will be conducted in two Panama-based scientific and research institutions, the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Research and the University of Panama. Funding for the project has been provided by the National Institutes of Health through the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups program, ICBG.

The majority of the revenues that may result from the discovery and commercialization of any products will go to Fundación NATURA and ANAM. Fundación NATURA supports projects that promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development throughout Panama. Funds for Fundación NATURA will be provided through an Environmental Trust, designed with the help of Conservation International, that is being created especially for this project. Funds provided to ANAM will be used to support the maintenance and establishment of national parks in Panama. At STRI, the coordinator of the project will be Todd Capson, research associate.

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El jueves 8 de abril se firmó un convenio de colaboración entre el director Ira Rubinoff y Mirei Endara, administradora general de la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente, ANAM, para iniciar un programa diseñado para establecer vínculos entre la conservación de la diversidad de los bosques panameños y bioprospección en busca de nuevos productos para la medicina y la agricultura. El convenio tiene una duración de cinco años, que podrá ser renovada automáticamente por cinco años más.

Gran parte del trabajo asociado con la bioprospección se llevará a cabo en dos instituciones de investigación científica con sede en Panamá, el Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas de Estudios de la Salud y la Universidad de Panamá. Los fondos para el proyecto fueron otorgados por el Instituto Nacional de la Salud de los Estados Unidos, a través del programa Grupos Internacionales de la Biodiversidad, ICBG. La mayoría de los fondos que resulten del descubrimiento y comercialización de cualquier producto serán destinados a la Fundación NATURA y ANAM. Fundación Natura apoya proyectos que promueven la conservación de la biodiversidad y el desarrollo sostenible en Panamá. Los fondos para Fundación NATURA serán entregados a través de un Fondo para el Ambiente creado especialmente para este propósito. Los fondos de ANAM se utilizarán para apoyar y establecer parques nacionales en Panamá. En STRI, el coordinador del proyecto será Todd Capson, investigador asociado del Instituto.

Caribbean coral reefs with Eldredge Bermingham, in Naos.

- Nicola Flanagan and Alexandra Tobler, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Apr 20-28, to visit STRI and consult with Christopher Jiggins on his *Heliconius* butterflies research, in Gamboa.
- Forest Rohwer, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Apr 20-30, to start a five-year project on microbial symbionts of corals.

## Departures

- Anthony Coates, Apr 23 - May 16, to Washington, D.C., on official business at SI, followed by a two-week vacation.

## Publications

- De Alba, Georgina. 1999. "Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute." *The Docent Educator* 8(1): 6-7
- Flint, S.D., and Caldwell, M.M. 1998. "Solar UV-B and Visible Radiation in Tropical Forest Gaps: Measurements Partitioning Direct and Diffuse Radiation." *Global Change Biology*, 4, 863-870.
- Eltz, T., Whitten, W.M., Roubik, David W. and Linsenmair, K.E. 1999. "Fragrance Collection, Storage, and Accumulation by Individual Male Orchid Bees" *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 25(1): 157.
- Koulianos, S., Schmid-Hempel, R., Roubik, David W., and Schmid-Hempel, P. (1999). "Phylogenetic relationships within the corbiculate Apinae (Hymenoptera) and the evolution of eusociality." *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, 12, 380-384.
- Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 1999. "Charles M. Breder y los Peces de Agua Dulce de Panamá, 1924." *"Epocas" Segunda Era*, 14(3): 4-5.
- Pringle, Heather. 1998. "The Slow Birth of Agriculture." *Science* 282: 1446-1450.
- Tilman, David. 1999. Diversity by Default." *Science* 283: 495-496.

## Urracá Cruise



## Crucero en el Urracá

There will be an opportunity for some SI employees to take a day long cruise aboard the R.V. *Urracá* on Friday, May 28, 1999. All interested in participating in this lottery (necessary because there are limited spaces), sign up with Xenia Guerra, Tel. 212-8061, E-mail: guerrax@tivoli.si.edu by April 30. The winners will be notified and given more details. Since this will happen on a work day, winners will need to apply for annual leave from their supervisors. So, sign up soon •••Habrà una oportunidad para que algunos afortunados empleados hagan un crucero diurno a bordo del *Urracá*, el viernes 28 de mayo de 1999. Interesados deberán comunicarse con Xenia Guerra en Ancón, tel. 212-8061, E-mail: guerrax@tivoli.si.edu hasta el 30 de abril para apuntarse en la tómbola (necesaria debido al límite de cupos). Se informará a los ganadores y se les darán más detalles. Como ese es un día de trabajo, será necesario que los ganadores le pidan "annual leave" a sus supervisores. Así que, anótense pronto.

## At the Bookstore

*Measures of Success; Designing, Managing and Monitoring Conservation and Development Projects*, by Richard Margolius and Nick Salafsky. \$38.00. Paperback. Nowhere does the disparity between formulating attractive visions about the future and actually realizing them seem greater than in the 'sustainable development' arena. Few people know how to turn theory into practice through small and achievable, but concrete and essential, steps. Margolius and Salafsky write with great depth of experience and insight, offering here a tremendously practical and inspirational guide to forging a sustainable future.

*Managing Nonprofit Organizations in the 21st Century*, by James P. Gellat. \$32.95 Paperback. Gellat discusses the five basic principles that should guide all nonprofit organizations: mission, leadership, management, professionalism, and financial stability. Each principle is thoroughly explored and is enhanced by instructive examples of notable managers and

successful organizations. The contents also feature a strategic planning guide, tips on building an effective staff, public relations and marketing advice.

## Oportunidades de Trabajo

El Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe, CATHALAC busca personal con nivel de post-grado relacionado al manejo integrado de recursos hídricos. Los candidatos deberán dominar el inglés, tener experiencia en el desarrollo de propuestas para proyectos y gestión de recursos financieros, y conocer agencias nacionales e internacionales. Deberá también estar dispuesto/a viajar. Interesados favor enviar su curriculum vitae al Fax 232-6834 • E-mail [cathalac@sinfo.net](mailto:cathalac@sinfo.net)

## Miscellaneous

Se ha extraviado un afiche a cargo de la casilla de Jorge Ventocilla en el cuarto de correos de Tupper. Si alguien sabe de su paradero favor comunicarse a la ext. 8125.