

## Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, September 9, 4pm seminar speaker will be Richard Cooke, STRI **Human settlement and subsistence on the Pearl Island archipelago (Panama) before Spanish conquest**

## Bambi seminar

Thursday, September 11, Bambi seminar speaker will be Chava Weitzman, University of Redlands **Conservation in the Bale Mountains National Park: a statistical analysis of population trends of the Ethiopian wolf, *Canis simensis***

## Arrivals

Alexander Lang and collaborators Klaus Riede, and Arne Schmidt, Karl Franzens-University Graz, to study the environmental gradients in predation by bats and its influence on acoustic communication in Neotropical katydids-Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae, on BCI.

Jennifer Phillips, University of California in San Diego, to study food recruitment communication of stingless bees, on BCI.

Emma Louise Wright, University of Nottingham, to study soil nutrient dynamics, at Tupper and Bocas del Toro.

Brendan Biggs, Florida State University, to study the influence of competition, mutualism, and physical environment on patterns of sponge diversity and co-occurrence on Caribbean coral reefs and mangroves, on Bocas del Toro.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

September 5, 2008

## New STRI book edited by Carson & Schnitzer

Walter P. Carson from the University of Pittsburgh and Stefan A. Schnitzer, STRI research associate from the University of Wisconsin edited the book *Tropical forest community ecology* (2008), expected this month from Blackwell Publishing.

Containing contributions from some of the world's leading tropical ecologists—several of them from STRI—this book provides a summary of the key issues in the discipline of tropical ecology. It covers patterns of species distribution, the maintenance of species diversity, the community ecology of tropical animals, forest regeneration and conservation of tropical ecosystems.

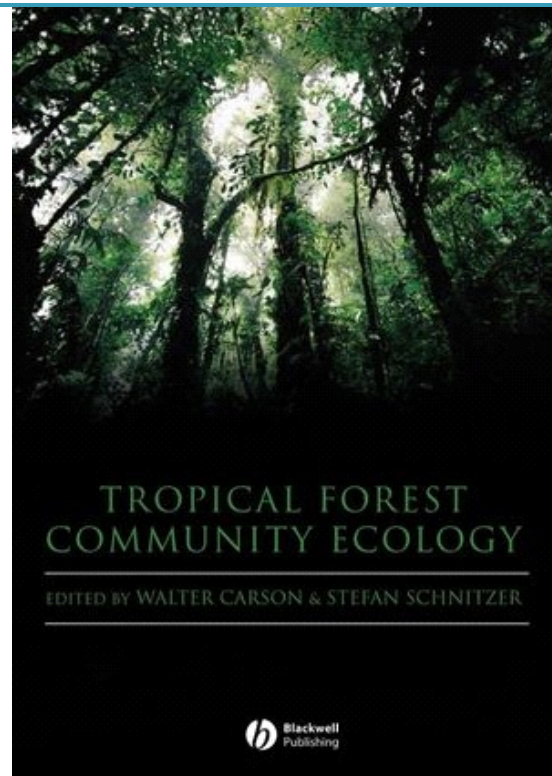
The book is divided into six sections: the scope of the book and key contributions; large scale patterns in tropical communities; testing theories of forest regeneration and the maintenance of species diversity; animal community ecology and trophic interactions; secondary forest succession, dynamics, and invasion; and tropical forest conservation. It has 536 pages and 120 illustrations. You can order the paperback for \$79.95 from Blackwell Publishing, or reserve a copy at the STRI bookstore.

Walter P. Carson, de la Universidad de Pittsburgh y Stefan A. Schnitzer,

investigador asociado a STRI de la Universidad de Wisconsin editaron el libro *Tropical forest community ecology* [Ecología de comunidades de bosques tropicales] (2008), el cual se espera para este mes, publicado por Blackwell Publishing.

Al incluir contribuciones de algunos de los ecólogos tropicales líderes en el mundo—varios de ellos de STRI—este libro proporciona un resumen de asuntos claves en la disciplina de la ecología tropical. Cubre patrones de distribución de especies, el mantenimiento de la diversidad de las especies, ecología de comunidades de animales tropicales, regeneración del bosque y la conservación de los ecosistemas tropicales.

El libro está dividido en seis secciones: una introducción describiendo el enfoque del



libro y contribuciones claves; patrones a gran escala en comunidades tropicales; puestas en prueba de teorías sobre regeneración de bosques y el mantenimiento de la diversidad de las especies; ecología de comunidades animales e interacciones tróficas; sucesión de bosques secundarios, dinámica e invasión; y la conservación de los bosques tropicales. El libro cuenta con 536 páginas y 120 ilustraciones. Se puede pedir la versión de cubierta suave por \$79.95 a Blackwell Publishing, o reservar su copia en la Librería de STRI en Panamá.

## Departures

Roberto Ibañez and Cesar Jaramillo to Honduras, to participate in a workshop to establish a regional monitoring and conservation program for Mesoamerican amphibians.

## New publications

Carson, Walter P., Anderson, Jill T., Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles, and Schnitzer, Stefan A. 2008. "Challenges associated with testing and falsifying the Janzen-Connell hypothesis: a review and critique." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 210-241. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Dalling, James W., and John, Robert. 2008. "Seed limitation and the coexistence of pioneer tree species." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 242-253. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Hubbell, Stephen P. 2008. "Approaching ecological complexity from the perspective of symmetric Neutral Theory." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 143-159. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Kitajima, Kaoru, and Poorter, Lourens. 2008. "Functional basis for resource niche partitioning by tropical trees." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 160-181. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

## ANAM honors Maté for research excellence

Ligia Castro de Doens, administrator of Panama's National Authority for the Environment (ANAM) and minister in charge of the Environment, presented the Environmental Research Excellence Award 2008 to STRI marine biologist Juan L. Maté, on Wednesday, Sep 3, at the National Theater.

ANAM honored Maté for his written contributions: *Análisis de la situación de la pesca en los golfos de Chiriquí y Montijo* [Analysis of fisheries status in Chiriqui and Montijo bays] published jointly with STRI and The Nature Conservancy in 2005; and *Evaluación del recurso pesquero en el Parque Nacional Coiba* [Evaluation of fishing resources in Coiba National Park], authored by Maté and Angel Vega from the University of Panama in Veraguas, who also received the award.

ANAM also considered the process involved in the production of the Coiba Management Plan coordinated by Maté with different stakeholders: ANAM, NGO's, fishermen, etc. in their decision.



Maté received a silver and 24k gold reproduction of Panama's national icon, "flor del espíritu santo" (holy spirit orchid) framed in a glass case.

Maté thanked ANAM for this distinction, and STRI for the opportunity to submit his work to ANAM's annual competition for institutional awards. During the ceremony Maté announced that the Coiba Management Plan is near completion, and that it is intended to promote conservation and the well being of the Park.

Ligia Castro de Doens, administradora de la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente de Panamá y ministra encargada del Ambiente, hizo entrega del Premio a la Excelencia Investigativa Ambiental 2008 al biólogo marino de STRI, Juan L. Maté, el miércoles, 3 de septiembre en el Teatro Nacional.

ANAM confirió este premio a Maté por sus contribuciones escritas *Análisis de la situación de la pesca en los golfos de Chiriquí y Montijo*, publicado conjuntamente con STRI y The Nature Conservancy en 2005; y *Evaluación del recurso pesquero*



en el Parque Nacional Coiba, escrito junto con Angel Vega, de la Universidad de Panamá en Veraguas, quien también recibió el premio.

ANAM también consideró el proceso completo de la producción del Plan de Manejo de Coiba coordinado por Maté, con los diferentes actores de ANAM, ONG's, la comunidad de pescadores y otros, para este reconocimiento.

Maté recibió la Flor del Espíritu Santo, ícono nacional hecho de plata y oro de 24 quilates enmarcada dentro de una caja de cristal.

Maté agradeció a la ANAM por esta distinción, y a STRI por la oportunidad de someter su trabajo para optar por los premios institucionales anuales de la ANAM. Durante la ceremonia, Maté anunció que el Plan de Manejo de Coiba pronto será terminado, y que ha sido diseñado para la conservación y el bienestar del Parque.

## New publications

Kursar, Thomas A., Capson, Todd L., Cubilla Rios, Luis, Emmen, Daniel A., Gerwick, William H., Gupta, Mahabir P., Heller, Maria V., McPhail, Kerry L., Ortega Barria, Eduardo, Quiros, Dora I., Romero, Luz I., and Solis, Pablo N. 2008. "Linking insights from ecological research with bioprospecting to promote conservation, enhance research capacity, and provide economic uses of biodiversity." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 429-441. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles. 2008. "Tropical forest ecology: sterile or virgin for theoreticians?" In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 121-142. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Matthews, Kathryn A., Grotto, Andréa G., McDonough, William F., and Palardy, James E. 2008. "Upwelling, species, and depth effects on coral skeletal cadmium-to-calcium ratios (Cd/Ca)." *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 72(18): 4537-4550.

Poorter, Lourens, Wright, S. Joseph, Paz, H., Ackerly, D.D., Condit, Richard S., Ibarra-Manriquez, G., Harms, Kyle Edward, Licona, J.C., Martinez-Ramos, Miguel, Mazer, S.J., Muller-Landau, Helen C., Pena-Claros, M., Webb, Campbell O., and Wright, I.J. 2008. "Are functional traits good predictors of demographic rates? Evidence from five Neotropical forests." *Ecology* 89(7): 1908-1920.



## Expo flora gives STRI exhibit first prize in its category

The exhibit on mangroves STRI contributed to the annual Expo Flora event at Museo Reina Torres de Arauz was awarded the first prize among exhibits of its kind. The text was based on scientific research conducted by Wayne Sousa, from the University of California at Berkeley in Galeta. It also mentions mangroves in Bocas del Toro and at Punta Culebra Nature Center.

The exhibit was coordinated by STRI's Public Information Office. It was open to the public from August 21-23.

The mangrove exhibit includes four large banners providing information on how to protect mangroves, why they are so important for coastal communities and their role in the prevention of destruction caused by extreme coastal weather events.

La exhibición sobre manglares que STRI presentó para el evento anual de Expo Flora, en el Museo Reina Torres de Arauz, recibió el primer premio en su categoría. El texto de la exhibición se basa en trabajos de investigación llevados a cabo en Galeta por Wayne Sousa, de la Universidad de California en Berkeley. También menciona los manglares en Bocas del Toro y el Centro Natural Punta Culebra.

La exhibición fue coordinada por la Oficina de Divulgación de STRI y se mantuvo abierta al público del 21 al 23 de agosto. Incluye cuatro afiches grandes que proporcionan información sobre cómo proteger los manglares, por qué son importantes para las comunidades costeras, y su papel en ayudar a prevenir las consecuencias de eventos climáticos extremos.

## New publications

Rocha, Luiz A., Lindeman, Kenyon C., Rocha, Claudia R., and Lessios, Harilaos A. 2008. "Historical biogeography and speciation in the reef fish genus *Haemulon* (Teleostei: Haemulidae)." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 48(3): 918-928.

Schnitzer, Stefan A., Mascaro, Joseph, and Carson, Walter P. 2008. "Treefall gaps and the maintenance of plant species diversity in tropical forests." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 196-209. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Webb, Campbell O., Cannon, Charles H., and Davies, Stuart James. 2008. "Ecological organization, biogeography, and the phylogenetic structure of tropical forest tree communities." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 79-97. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Wright, S. Joseph. 2008. "Foreword." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: xi-xii. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

Zimmerman, Jess K., Thompson, Jill, and Brokaw, Nicholas V.L. 2008. "Large tropical forest dynamics plots: testing explanations for the maintenance of species diversity." In Carson, Walter P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. (Eds.), *Tropical forest community ecology*: 98-117. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

# “Tropical forests in a changing environment”

Story: Adapted from  
*ScienceWatch*  
September 2008  
Edited by M Alvarado  
& ML Calderon  
Photo: MA Guerra

replaced by agriculture  
and human-disturbed  
forests everywhere  
outside nature reserves. If  
this transition proceeds  
unchecked, global rainfall  
patterns will be changed  
and massive number of  
species will become  
extinct.”

“The uncertain future of  
tropical forests represents  
the greatest unknown in  
global climate  
projections. We urgently  
need a mechanism to fund  
the preservation of  
tropical forests in order to  
ensure our own future”  
states Wright.

“Tropical forests support  
60% of all species and are  
a key component of global  
carbon and climate  
cycles. The future of these  
forests and their  
responses to  
anthropogenic change  
has tremendous social  
and political  
implications.”

J. Wright

STRI staff scientist S.  
Joseph Wright, who is  
currently involved in a  
crucial debate on the  
future of tropical species,  
was just featured in  
*ScienceWatch*, for the  
growing number of  
citations of his article:  
“Tropical forests in a  
changing environment”  
published in 2005 in the  
journal *Trends in Ecology  
and Evolution* has  
accumulated.

“Tropical forests are  
important to everyone  
because moisture that  
evaporates from tropical  
forests sustain global  
precipitation.”

“Just 200 years ago,  
old-growth tropical  
forests covered one sixth  
of the Earth’s surface.  
Within our children’s  
lifetime, these old-growth  
forests will have been

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, September 5, 2008,

“Los bosques tropicales  
mantienen el 60% de  
todas las especies y son  
un componente clave del  
carbono global y los  
ciclos climáticos. El  
futuro de estos bosques y  
sus respuestas a los  
cambios antropomórficos  
tienen implicaciones  
sociales y políticas a gran  
escala.”

J. Wright.

El científico de STRI S.  
Joseph Wright, quien  
lidera un debate crucial  
sobre el futuro de las  
especies tropicales, acaba  
de ser sujeto de noticias  
en *Science Watch*, por el  
creciente número de citas  
acumuladas por uno de  
sus artículos, “Tropical  
forests in a changing  
environment” [Los  
bosques tropicales en un  
ambiente cambiante]  
publicado en 2005 en la  
revista *Trends of Ecology  
and Evolution*.

“Los bosques tropicales  
son importantes para  
todos, debido a que la  
humedad que se evapora  
de los bosques tropicales  
mantienen las lluvias  
globales.”

“Hace solamente 200  
años, los bosques  
tropicales de antiguo  
crecimiento cubrían un  
sexto de la superficie de  
la Tierra.

Durante la vida de  
nuestros hijos, estos  
bosques primarios serán  
reemplazados por la  
agricultura y bosques  
afectados por el hombre  
donde fuera de las  
reservas naturales, si esta  
transición continua sin  
examinarse, los patrones  
de lluvia globales  
cambiarán y un número  
masivo de especies se  
extinguirá.”

“El futuro incierto de los  
bosques tropicales  
representa la incógnita  
más grande de las  
proyecciones del cambio  
climático. Necesitamos  
urgentemente un  
mecanismo para financiar  
la conservación de los  
bosques tropicales y así  
garantizar nuestro propio  
futuro” asegura Wright.

