

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, August 11, 4pm seminar speaker will be Ron Herzig, Discovery Assays and Services, Invitrogen
RNA interference— a conserved gene regulatory mechanism and its impact on functional genomics and the evolving field of synthetic biology

Paleo-Talk

Wednesday, August 12, Paleo talk speaker will be Fenwick C. Riley, 4pm the CTPA
Travels in the Arabian Desert

Bambi seminar

Thursday, August 13, Bambi seminar speaker will be Anand Varma, National Geographic
Picturing a career in biology: Stories from a natural history photographer

Town meeting

STRI director Eldredge Bermingham will hold a town meeting for the STRI community on Thursday, August 13. He will begin his remarks with an introduction on the state of our Institute, followed by a period for Q&A. We appreciate your timely attendance.

Arrivals

Jeyarany Kathirithamby, Oxford University, to study Strepsiptera (Insecta) of Panama, on BCI.

Nahid Osman, Red Sea University, Sudan, Brian Wysor, Roger Williams University and Erick Ask, to teach in the NSF-PASI Advanced Tropical Phycology field course on Bocas del Toro to students from different universities and countries.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

August 7, 2009

STRI postdoctoral researcher Julia Mayo, from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, was recently appointed STRI research associate. Mayo, a Panamanian archaeologist, is leading the El Caño Archaeological Project, from her laboratories in the Center for Tropical Paleontology and Archaeology.

The watershed of Rio Grande in Coclé, where El Caño is located, is known for the discovery of large and ostentatious graves in Sitio Conte, during the 30's and 40's.

The El Caño project aims at investigating the past use of a complex of sculpted and unsculpted basalt columns lined up within Park limits. Some of these structures can be seen, but most of them are buried. Mayo and collaborators are conducting archaeological excavations at the site to discover the nature and function of the buried structures, which are revealed thanks to geophysical prospecting conducted in 2005 and 2006.

The El Caño project has been funded by the National Geographic Society (Research and Exploration Grant) and the program to increase international collaboration of Panamá's Secretariat for Science and Technology (SENACYT) since 2008.

La investigadora de posgrado en STRI, Julia Mayo, de la

Julia Mayo appointed STRI research associate



Photo: Manuel Antonio Franco

Universidad Complutense de Madrid fue nombrada recientemente como investigadora asociada a STRI. Mayo, arqueóloga panameña, lidera el Proyecto Arqueológico El Caño, y tiene sus laboratorios en el Centro de Paleoecología y Arqueología Tropical de STRI.

La Cuenca de Río Grande de Coclé, donde se encuentra El Caño, se conoce por los descubrimientos en los años 30 y 40 de las grandes y suntuosas tumbas de Sitio Conte.

El proyecto de El Caño tiene como objetivo investigar el uso que tuvo el complejo de alineamientos de columnas basálticas y calzadas que se encuentran dentro de los límites del Parque. Parte de estas

estructuras pueden apreciarse en la superficie, pero la gran mayoría permanecen todavía enterradas. Mayo y colaboradores llevan a cabo excavaciones arqueológicas en el sitio, para descubrir la naturaleza de las estructuras enterradas, visibles gracias a prospecciones geofísicas realizadas en 2005 y 2006.

El proyecto de El Caño es financiado desde el año 2008 con fondos de la National Geographic Society (Research and Exploration Grant) y el programa de Fomento a la Colaboración Internacional de la Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de Panamá (SENACYT).

Departures

Luis Turner to Washington DC, to meet with colleagues and receive training in Complex Acquisition and Contracting Systems and other management and procurement actions, at SI.

Haris Lessios, to Athens, Greece, on vacation.

Matthew Miller to Philadelphia, to attend the 2009 American Ornithologists Union annual conference.

Carla Chizmar, Eva Garen and Javier Mateo-Vega to Rio Branco, Brazil, to implement an ELTI field course "Linking Local Communities to Environmental Markets" from August 16-20, with their Forest Trends partners.

New publications

Bulmer, Mark S., Bachelet, Ido, Raman, Rahul, Rosengaus, Rebeca B., and Sasisekharan, Ram. 2009. "Targeting an antimicrobial effector function in insect immunity as a pest control strategy." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106(31): 12652-12657.

Cernusak, Lucas A., Winter, Klaus, Aranda, Jorge E., Virgo, Aurelio, and Garcia, Milton. 2009. "Transpiration efficiency over an annual cycle, leaf gas exchange and wood carbon isotope ratio of three tropical tree species." *Tree Physiology* Online.

Cortes, Jorge, Guzman, Hector M., Fonseca, Ana C., Alvarado, Juan Jose, Breedy, Odaliska, Fernandez, Cindy, Segura, Alvaro, and Ruiz, Eleazar. 2009. *Ambientes y organismos marinos de la Reserva Biológica Isla del Caño, Área de Conservación Osa, Costa Rica*. San José, Costa Rica: The Nature Conservancy.

STRI, ANAM and MarViva representatives meet at Coiba National Park

STRI's Marine Technical Agreements coordinator Juan Maté, Panama's Environmental Authority (ANAM) administrator Javier Arias, members of his staff, and representatives from MarViva, including director Gabriela Etchelecu, traveled to Coiba National Park to conduct meetings and site visits on July 23-25.

Maté presented a copy of the Coiba National Park Management Plan and briefed the group, which included the new ANAM Regional administrator for Veraguas, Jeremías Aguilar, and park rangers, about the plan and its implementation.

STRI received funding from Conservation International to start implementing priority actions of the plan. One recent accomplishment following implementation of the plan is the use of solar panels to generate electricity at ANAM's ranger station satisfying

Renewal of collaboration agreement with Explora

STRI's director Eldredge Bermingham (right), Fundación Natura president Adolfo Quintero (left) and Explora president Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares signed a two-year renewal of their collaboration agreement for two years, on July 15, at Explora.

The collaboration agreement aims at joining forces for the design, development and implementation of programs to promote the conservation of Panama's natural environments.



approximately 40% of its electricity needs. Thirty-six mooring buoy systems for dive boats were installed to reduce the impact of anchor damage on ocean floor biodiversity. Funds to build a new rangers' station at Isla Canal de Afuera were also obtained.

Juan Maté, coordinador de Convenios Técnicos Marinos de STRI, Javier Arias, administrador de la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente de Panamá, miembros de su personal y representantes de MarViva, incluyendo su directora Gabriela Etchelecu viajaron al Parque Nacional Coiba del 23 al 25 de julio para llevar a cabo reuniones y visitas al campo.

Maté hizo entrega de una copia del Plan de Manejo del Parque Nacional Coiba a Arias en

nombre de STRI e hizo una presentación breve sobre el plan y su implementación al grupo, incluyendo a Jeremías Aguilar, nuevo administrador regional de Veraguas de ANAM y los guardaparques.

STRI recibió fondos de Conservation International para empezar a implementar las recomendaciones del plan. Uno de los logros más recientes es el uso de paneles solares para generar el 40% de energía necesaria en la Estación de Guardaparques. Treinta y seis amarres para los sistemas de buceo se instalaron para reducir el impacto del daño que las anclas causaban sobre la biodiversidad del lecho marino. También se han obtenido fondos para construir una nueva estación para guardaparques en Isla Canal de Afuera.

Eldredge Bermingham, director de STRI (a la derecha), Adolfo Quintero (izquierda) presidente de la Fundación Natura y Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares firmaron la renovación de un acuerdo de colaboración por dos años, el 15 de julio, en la sede de Explora.

El acuerdo tiene como fin unir fuerzas para el diseño,

desarrollo e implementación de programas para promover la conservación de los ambientes panameños.



Photo: Courtesy of Explora

New publications

Head, Jason J., Bloch, Jonathan I., Hastings, Alexander K., Bourque, Jason R., Cadena, Edwin A., Herrera, Fabiany A., Polly, P. David, and Jaramillo, Carlos A. 2009. "Head et al. reply." *Nature* 460(7255): E4-E5.

Helgen, Kristofer M., Kays, Roland W., Helgen, Lauren E., Tsuchiya-Jerep, Mirian T.N., Pinto, C. Miguel, Koepfli, Klaus-Peter, Eizirik, Eduardo, and Maldonado, Jesus E. 2009. "Taxonomic boundaries and geographic distributions revealed by an integrative systematic overview of the mountain coatis, *Nasuella* (Carnivora: Procyonidae)." *Small Carnivore Conservation* 41(1): 65-74.

Santos-Granero, Fernando. 2009. "Hybrid bodyscapes: A visual history of Uaneshá patterns of cultural change." *Current Anthropology* 50(4): 477-512.

Volkov, Igor, Banavar, Jayanth R., Hubbell, Stephen P., and Maritan, Amos. 2009. "Inferring species interactions in tropical forests." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Online*.

STRI in the news

"Deforestation emissions on the rise: Amazon study suggests denser forest yields will mean more carbon release" by Jeff Tollefson. 2009. *Nature News*: July 29, at <http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090729/full/news.2009.752.html>

"Estaremos en el Castillo: Panamá en el Smithsonian" by Vielka López D. 2009. *Siete*: July 30.

Bocas Station on YouTube!

More than 30 videos produced at STRI's Bocas del Toro Research Station (BRS) can be seen on YouTube. Most are short 2-minute clips featuring specific animals, like the upside down jellyfish or howler monkeys, as well as some videos about different marine habitats and activities around the station. More videos will be added by next week. The channel has already had 800 video views and several of the videos have 5-star ratings.

We would like to give special thanks to Bocas visitors JP Lawrence, Rosana Rocha and Jim Roper, who have contributed a number of really nice videos to the site.

The link for the channel is: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BocasResearchStation>

Some of the best are:
On mangrove roots: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBgewzhqqsE&feature=channel_page

On caiman relocation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XxFrHTod5w&feature=channel_page

Correction

In the previous issue of *STRI news*, on July 31st, the story on the Mono Titi, page 4, was incorrect. The Mono Titi that occurs in Costa Rica and in western Chiriquí is the Central American (or red backed) Squirrel Monkey, *Saimiri oerstedii*. It is an endangered species. This is not the case for the Geoffroy's Tamarin *Saguinus geoffroyi* that appears in the photo. These Titi monkeys are not threatened, are common and widespread in Panama, and do not occur in Costa Rica. These are the monkeys that are visiting the Tivoli gardens and



Upside-down jellyfish: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Mlg5UGR548&feature=channel_page

The rufus-tailed hummingbird: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyAholFewdc&feature=channel_page

Más de 30 videos producidos en la Estación de Investigaciones de STRI en Bocas del Toro (BRS) se pueden ver en YouTube. La mayoría son cortos de dos minutos mostrando animales especiales, como una aguamala boca arriba o monos aulladores, al igual que videos sobre los diferentes hábitats marinos y las actividades en la estación. Se añadirán más videos la próxima

have troops in Ancon Hill. The confusion arises because both are locally called Mono Titi. We thank George Angehr for correcting the story.

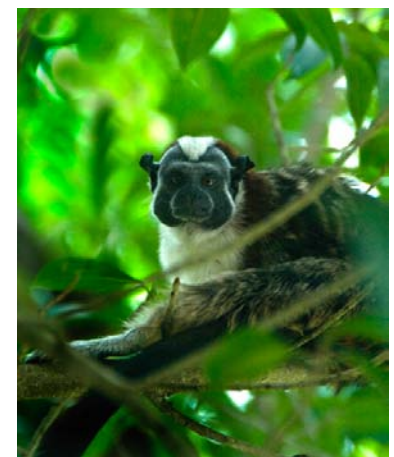
En el número anterior del *STRI news*, el 31 de julio, la historia sobre los monos titi en pág. 4 estaba errada. El mono titi que ocurre en Costa Rica y en el oeste de Chiriquí es el mono ardilla o de espalda roja centroamericano *Saimiri oerstedii*, y está en peligro de extinción. Este no es el caso para el mono titi *Saguinus geoffroyi* que aparece en la foto. Estos monos titi no están en peligro, son comunes y distribuidos ampliamente en

semana. El canal ya ha tenido más de 800 visitas y algunos videos han sido calificados con cinco estrellas.

Deseamos darles las gracias a los visitantes de Bocas especialmente a JP Laurance, Rosa Richa y Jim Roper, por los videos con los que contribuyeron al sitio.

El enlace para el canal es: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BocasResearchStation>

Algunos de los mejores videos aparecen en las direcciones de internet listadas en la versión en inglés de esta noticia.



Panamá, aunque no en Costa Rica. Estos son los monos que están visitando los jardines del Tivoli, y tienen tropas en el Cerro Ancón. La confusión surge de que ambos son llamados localmente mono titi. Agradecemos a George Angehr por la aclaración de la noticia.

Short communication:

Record of Worm Eating Warbler at Galeta Point



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, August 7, 2009

Story and photos:
Jorge Moisés Herrera
Edited by M Avarado
and ML Calderon

Jorge M. Herrera,
Colón Container
Terminal (CCT) fellow
at Galeta Point
captured, recorded and
released one individual
of the Worm-Eating
Warbler *Helmitheros
vermivorus* in April.

Its age was calculated
to be that of the
second year after
hatching (ASY), since it
displayed a completely
calcified cranium and
basic adult plumage

This capture is
important for the
studies carried out at
Galeta Marine
Laboratory, since it is
an important species
for the Monitoring
Program of Winter
Survival. This program
aims at detecting the
sites where
Neotropical birds
spend winters in order
to protect them, and
this species
had not been
recorded
in Galeta.

Jorge Moisés Herrera,
becario de Colón
Container Terminal
(CCT) en Punta Galeta,
capturó, registró y
liberó un individuo
Chipe Gusanero
(*Helmitheros
vermivorus*) en abril.

Se determinó que su
edad era de un
segundo año después
de la eclosión (ASY),
ya que presentaba el
cráneo completamente
osificado, con plumaje
adulto totalmente
básico.

Esta captura es
importante para los
estudios del
Laboratorio de Punta
Galeta, ya que es una
especie de importancia
para el Programa de
Monitoreo de
Sobrevivencia Invernal
(MoSI), el cual busca
detectar los sitios
donde pasan el
invierno las aves
neotropicales, para
protegerlos. Además la
especie no había sido
registrada para Galeta.

