

## Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, June 8, 4pm seminar speaker will be Bert Drake, SI Environmental Research Center (SERC)

**Carbon balance and long-term elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in a Chesapeake Bay wetland and Florida scrub oak forest**

## Two Bambis

Wednesday, June 9, Bambi special speaker will be James Rosindell, University of Leeds Island biogeography, speciation and Hubbell's neutral theory of biodiversity

Thursday, June 10, Bambi seminar speaker will be Bert Drake, SERC

**Responses of vegetation to rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: what we have learned from a two decades of study?**

## Arrivals

Daniella Schweizer, University of California, Santa Cruz, to study the phylogenetic signal in the performance and health of tree species in mixed plantations, in Gamboa and Naos.

Jennifer Levey, Harvard University, to join the Agua Salud Project-Hydrologic Studies.

Grace Chen, Michigan State University, to study the effects of biotic interactions and abiotic stress on plant adaptation in the tropics, on BCI.

Justin Yeager, Corinne Zawacki and Anisha Devar, Tulane University, to study the selection and the rapid evolution of morphological variation among strawberry poison-dart frogs of the Bocas del Toro archipelago.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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

June 4, 2010

## Laurance awarded the Prince Bernhard Chair of International Nature Conservation

Research associate and former senior staff scientist at STRI William F. Laurance was awarded the prestigious endowed chair at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands, the Prince Bernhard Chair for International Nature Conservation for five years. He will spend one month per year in Europe to do research on tropical conservation and share his knowledge with European conservationists, students, researchers and policy-makers, beginning this month.

The Prince Bernhard Chair for Nature Conservation was established in 1986 to honor the late Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for his contribution to international nature conservation on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Prince Bernhard was a founder and the first president of WWF. The purpose of the Chair is to raise awareness of nature conservation among students, strengthen the research base for nature conservation and consolidate the links between scientific theory and practice.

Laurance is looking forward to working with European researchers on the theme of

nature conservation in the tropics. "Tropical rainforests all over the world are under extreme pressure. As scientists, we cannot permit ourselves to stand by and watch the devastation continue" he stated. "Researchers and scientists also have a duty to try to persuade governments, policy-makers and the wider public to take steps to halt the destruction of these forests" added Laurance.

William F. Laurance, investigador asociado a STRI quien fue hasta hace poco científico permanente en el Instituto, fue seleccionado para ocupar una prestigiosa posición en la Universidad de Utrecht en Holanda, como síndico Príncipe Bernhard para la Conservación Internacional de la Naturaleza, por cinco años. A partir de este mes, pasará un mes al año realizando investigaciones en Europa y compartiendo sus conocimientos con conservacionistas, estudiantes y tomadores de decisiones.

La posición Príncipe Bernhard para la Conservación de la Naturaleza se estableció en 1986 con motivo del cumpleaños 75 del finado Príncipe Bernhard de Holanda, fundador y primer presidente de WWF. El propósito de esta posición es



crear conciencia de la conservación de la naturaleza entre estudiantes, fortalecer la base investigativa para la conservación de la naturaleza y consolidar los enlaces entre la teoría científica y la práctica.

Laurance está ansioso de trabajar con investigadores europeos sobre el tema de la conservación de los trópicos "Los bosques tropicales se encuentran bajo extrema presión. Como científicos, no debemos quedarnos de brazos cruzados, viendo cómo continúa esta devastación sin hacer nada," aseguró.. "Los investigadores y científicos también tienen el deber de persuadir a los gobiernos, tomadores de decisiones y al público en general para que tomen los pasos necesarios para detener la destrucción de estos bosques" añadió Laurance.

## More arrivals

Professors of the 2010 Encyclopedia of Life - Meiofauna Diversity and Taxonomy Field Course at Bocas del Toro: Belinda Cooke, Ludwig Maximilians University; Jon Norenbur, SI National Museum of Natural History; Katrine Worsaae, University of Copenhagen; Marco Curini-Galletti, University of Sassari, Italy; Fernando Pardos, Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Lena Gustavsson, Swedish Museum of Natural History; Ashleigh Smythe, Hamilton College; Sofia Pytaeva, V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, with students Kevin Kocot, Barbara Eder, Maikon Domenico and Katharina Jorger.

## Departures

Rachel Collin to Hamilton, NY, to attend the International Evolutionary Transitions in Invertebrate Larval Forms Symposium at Colgate University.

## New publications

Billet, Guillaume, Orliac, Maëva, Antoine, Pierre-Olivier, and Jaramillo, Carlos A. 2010. "New observations and reinterpretation on the enigmatic taxon *Colombitherium* (?Pyrotheria, Mammalia) from Colombia." *Palaeontology* 53(2): 319-325.

Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 2010. "A. Wetmore y A. Hartmann: colectando aves en Chiriquí Oriente, 1956." "Épocas" *Tercera Era* (Supplement to *El Panamá América*) 25(5): 2-3.

## Two millionth visitor!

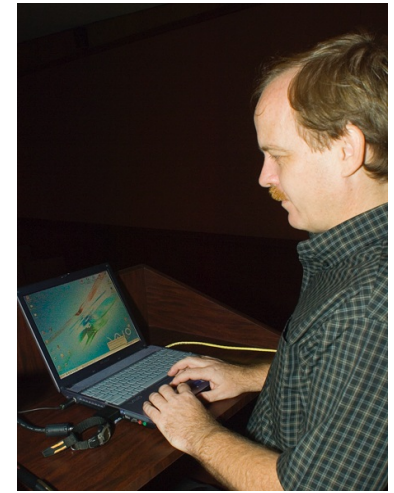
The Office of Bioinformatics (OBio), under the leadership of Steven Paton and guidance of STRI's director Biff Bermingham, was created in May of 2007 with the mandate of "maximizing the quantity and quality of STRI's scientific information on the web." Since that time, the number of visitors to OBio websites has increased from a few hundred per day to its present value of over 4,200.

Today (May 5), the OBio would like to announce the arrival of the 2,000,000<sup>th</sup> visitor to its websites. During the same period, OBio websites have served up over 37 million pages and 2.1 petabytes of

information (that's 1024 terrabytes, or 1024x1024 gigabytes!).

La Oficina de BioInformática (OBio), bajo el liderazgo de Steve Paton y la orientación del director de STRI, Eldredge Bermingham, se creó en mayo de 2007 con el mandato de "maximizar la cantidad y calidad de la información científica en la página web de STRI. Desde entonces, el número de visitantes en las páginas de OBio ha aumentado de unos cuantos cientos al día a su valor actual de más de 4,200 visitantes al día.

Hoy (5 de mayo), Obio desea anunciar la llegada del visitante número 2,000,000 a sus páginas



de web. Durante el mismo período, las páginas de Obio han servido más de 37 millones de páginas y 2.1 petabytes de información (esto es 1024 terrabytes, o 1025x1024 gigabytes!).



### NEXT LIVE WEBCAST

Carbon balance and long-term elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in a Chesapeake Bay wetland and Florida Scrub Oak forest

Speaker: Bert Drake

June 8, 2010 / 4:00 pm ET

## Every week live!

STRI's Office of Information Technology has implemented a way to view every Tuesday seminar live from our website. Just go to [www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org) and click on the "webcast" link on the main menu. Next Live seminar on the web is: Tuesday, June 8 at 4 pm ET "Carbon balance and long-term elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in a Chesapeake Bay wetland and Florida scrub oak forest" by Bert Drake, Visiting Scholar, Senior Research Plant Physiologist

La Oficina de Informática ha instalado las herramientas necesarias para poder ver los seminarios de los martes. Sólo debe visitar [www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org) y escoger "webcast" del menú principal.

## ARC project issues its first annual report

The Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project issued its first annual report 2009 this week. It will be distributed shortly.

El Proyecto de Conservación y Rescate de Anfibios de Panamá acaba de publicar su primer informe anual con fecha de 2009 esta semana. Pronto se estará distribuyendo.



## New publications

Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 2010. "A. Wetmore y A. Hartmann: exploraciones ornitológicas en Chiriquí Oriente." *"Épocas" Tercera Era* (Supplement to *El Panamá América*) 25(4): 10-11.

Ingwell, Laura L., Wright, S. Joseph, Becklund, Kristen K., Hubbell, Stephen P., and Schnitzer, Stefan A. 2010. "The impact of lianas on 10 years of tree growth and mortality on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Journal of Ecology* Online.

Jander, K. Charlotte, and Herre, Edward Allen. 2010. "Host sanctions and pollinator cheating in the fig tree-fig wasp mutualism." *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 277(1687): 1481-1488.

Pinzon-Navarro, Sara, Barrios, Hector, Murria, Cesc, Lyal, Christopher H.C., and Vogler, Alfred P. 2010. "DNA-based taxonomy of larval stages reveals huge unknown species diversity in Neotropical seed weevils (genus *Conotrachelus*): relevance to evolutionary ecology." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 56(1): 281-293.

Rojas, Enith I., Rehner, Stephen A., Samuels, Gary J., Van Bael, Sunshine, Herre, Edward Allen, Cannon, Paul F., Chen, Rui, Pang, Junfeng, Wang, Rui-Wu, Zhang, Yaping, Peng, Yan-Qiong, and Sha, Tao. 2010. "*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* s.l. associated with *Theobroma cacao* and other plants in Panama: Multilocus phylogenies distinguish host-associated pathogens from asymptomatic endophytes." *Mycologia* Online.

Smithsonian

# Punta Galeta

Apreciar  
Comprender  
Conservar  
el mundo natural

visítanos!  
Laboratorio Marino  
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## "Muppies" at bus stops to promote Galeta

Fifty 1.2 x 1.8 meter "muppies" were designed and located in bus stops in Colón City and its surroundings.

The "muppies" extol the beauty of the coastal nature that can be observed and experienced at Galeta Point Marine Laboratory. This very public outreach effort has been possible thanks to PICS, a company attracted by STRI's Office of Public Information and Media Relations.

Cincuenta "muppies" de 1.2 x 1.8 metros se sembraron en las paradas de buses de la ciudad de Colón y sus alrededores.

Los "muppies" o afiches gigantes, exaltan las bellezas de la naturaleza costera que puede observarse y experimentarse en el Laboratorio Marino de Punta Galeta. Este esfuerzo con miras hacia el público fue posible gracias a una donación de PICS, compañía que atraída a STRI a través de la Oficina de Divulgación y Relaciones con los Medios.

## New publications

Russo, Sabrina E., Cannon, Whitney Logan, Elowsky, Christian, Tan, Sylvester, and Davies, Stuart J. 2010. "Variation in leaf stomatal traits of 28 tree species in relation to gas exchange along an edaphic gradient in a Bornean rain forest." *American Journal of Botany* Online.

Ryan, Mason J., Lips, Karen R., and Giermakowski, J. Tomasz. 2010. "New species of *Pristimantis* (Anura: Terrarana: Strabomantinae) from Lower Central America." *Journal of Herpetology* 44(2): 193-200.

Sayer, Emma J., and Tanner, Edmund V.J. 2010. "Experimental investigation of the importance of litterfall in lowland semi-evergreen tropical forest nutrient cycling." *Journal of Ecology* Online.

Schneps, Matthew H., Griswold, Alex, Finkelstein, Nancy, McLeod, Michele, and Schrag, Daniel P. 2010. "Using video to build learning contexts online." *Science* 328(5982): 1119-1120.

Uriarte, Maria, Bruna, Emilio M., Rubim, Paulo, Ancaes, Marina, and Jonckheere, Inge. 2010. "Effects of forest fragmentation on the seedling recruitment of a tropical herb: assessing seed vs. safe-site limitation." *Ecology* 91(5): 1317-1328.

Story: Beth King.  
Edited by M Alvarado  
and ML Calderon

Background photo:  
Marcos Guerra, 2006,  
Cerro Campana  
Insets: Andrew  
Crawford

Trying to stay ahead of  
a deadly disease that  
has wiped out more  
than 100 species,  
scientists at STRI  
continue to discover  
new frog species in  
Panama. Two teams of  
researchers have  
named new species in  
2010: *Pristimantis*  
*educatoris*, from Omar  
Torrijos National Park,  
and *Pristimantis adnus*  
from Darien Province  
near the Colombian  
border.

"We are working as  
hard as we can to find  
and identify frogs  
before the disease  
reaches them, and to  
learn more about a  
disease that has the  
power to ravage an  
entire group of  
organisms," said  
Roberto Ibanez,  
research scientist at  
STRI and local director  
of the Panama  
Amphibian Rescue and  
Conservation Project  
(ARC). "It is  
heartbreaking that  
these animals are  
going extinct before we  
even know what they  
are."

Panama Amphibian  
Rescue and  
Conservation Project  
unites eight  
institutions including  
STRI and the  
Smithsonian's National  
Zoological Park, along  
with Panama's  
environmental  
authority, ANAM, in a  
new effort to raise  
captive frogs in  
Panama at Summit  
Nature Park with  
support from the  
already up and running

El Valle Amphibian  
Conservation Center.

The new reports bring  
the total number of frog  
species described in  
Panama and Costa Rica  
to 197. Nearly 15  
percent of these new  
frogs have been  
described in the last  
seven years.

*P. educatoris* was  
reported by Mason J.  
Ryan, Karen R. Lips, J.  
Tomasz Giermakowski.  
2010. New species of  
*Pristimantis* (Anura:  
Terrarana:  
Stabomantinae) from  
lower Central America.  
2010. *Journal of  
Herpetology*. 44(2): 193-  
200.

*P. adnus* was reported  
by Andrew J. Crawford,  
Mason J. Ryan, César J.  
Jaramillo. A new  
species of *Pristimantis*  
(Anura:  
Strabomantidae) from  
the Pacific coast of the  
Darien Province,  
Panama, with a  
molecular analysis of  
its phylogenic position.  
2010. *Herpetologica*,  
66(2), 192-206.

# New species: *Already on death row?*

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, June 4, 2010

Los científicos en STRI  
tratan de ganarle  
tiempo a la enfermedad  
letal que ya ha cobrado  
las vidas de más de  
100 especies, al  
descubrir nuevas  
especies de ranas en  
Panamá. Dos equipos  
de investigadores han  
descrito dos nuevas  
especies en 2010:  
*Pristimantis*  
*educatoris*, del Parque  
Nacional Omar Torrijos

y *Pristimantis adnus*  
de la provincia de  
Darién cerca de la  
frontera con Colombia.

"Estamos trabajando  
tan duro como  
podemos para  
encontrar e identificar  
las ranas antes de que  
la enfermedad las  
ataque, y para conocer  
más sobre una  
enfermedad que tiene  
el poder de acabar con  
grupos enteros de  
organismos" dice  
Roberto Ibáñez,  
científico en STRI y  
director del Proyecto  
de Conservación y  
Rescate de Anfibios de  
Panamá. "Es muy  
doloroso que estos  
animales se extingan  
antes de que podamos  
conocer de su  
existencia."

El Proyecto une a ocho  
instituciones que  
incluyen a STRI y el  
Zoológico Nacional del  
Smithsonian, junto con  
la ANAM, en un nuevo  
esfuerzo para criar  
ranas en cautiverio en  
Panamá en el Parque  
Natural Summit con el  
apoyo del Centro de  
Conservación de  
Anfibios en El Valle,  
que ya tiene tiempo de  
estar funcionando.

Los informes aparecen  
citados en la versión  
en inglés de esta  
noticia.



*Pristimantis educatoris* *Pristimantis adnus*