

Tupper seminar

Tue, Aug 31, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Ewers, University of Canterbury, UK
Deforestation, forest fragmentation and beetle communities in New Zealand

Holiday

Wed, Sep 1st will be the inauguration of Panama's new government and president Martín Torrijos Espino. This is an official holiday for all sectors in Panama.

Bambi seminar

Thu, Aug 2, Bambi seminar speaker will be David Logue, Colorado State University
Title to be announced

Arrivals

Sylvain Delagrangé, University of Quebec, Aug 27 - Oct 15, to work with Catherine Potvin, at Naos and Sardinilla.

Maria Adreani, Nicole Fogarty and Casey Terhorst, Florida State University, Aug 29 - Oct 8, to study the ecology of speciation in a Neotropical coral, at Bocas.

Kirk Zigler, STRI postdoctoral fellow from Duke University, Aug 31 - Nov 30, to study the transition between indirect and direct development early development of *Chyepsster rosaceus*, at Naos and Bocas.

Melissa Garren, Scripps, Aug 30 - Oct 9, to work, as volunteer with Rachel Collin in introgression and a genic view of coral species, at Bocas.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

www.stri.org

August 27, 2004



Juvenile *Crocodylus acutus* / Lagartos blancos juveniles.

STRI and IDIAP sign agreement

Early this month, director Ira Rubinoff and David Berroa Pinzon, director of Panama's Agriculture Research Institute (IDIAP) signed a two-year memorandum of understanding to join efforts in the study of the biological diversity of the white crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus* in Panama. This species is protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments aiming to ensure that international trade in

specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Miriam Vanegas de Anaya, IDIAP, and Oris Sanjur, STRI, will coordinate the project. STRI will provide the project with technical support and use of its research facilities at the Biotechnology Molecular Laboratories located at the Naos Island Laboratories.

A principios de este mes, el director Ira Rubinoff y David Berroa Pinzón, director del Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá, firmaron un memorándum de entendimiento de dos años para unir esfuerzos en el estudio de la diversidad biológica del lagarto blanco, *Crocodylus acutus* en Panamá. Esta especie está protegida por el Convenio sobre Comercio Internacional de Especies de Flora y Fauna Silvestre en Peligro de Extinción (CITES, por sus siglas en inglés), un convenio internacional entre gobiernos que desean asegurar que el comercio internacional de especímenes de animales y plantas silvestres no los ponga en peligro de extinción. Miriam Vanegas de Anaya, IDIAP, y Oris Sanjur, STRI, coordinarán el proyecto. STRI aportará apoyo técnico y el uso de sus instalaciones de investigación en el Laboratorio de Biotecnología Molecular, localizado en los Laboratorios de Isla Naos.

New frog species named after Stanley Rand

In their article "Two new species of *Physalaemus* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) from western Ecuador" [*Herpetologica*, 60(2), 261–275, August], Santiago R. Ron and David C. Cannatella from The University of Texas at Austin, and Luis A. Coloma, from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, named a new frog species *Physalaemus randi* after STRI herpetologist A. Stanley Rand, "who has contributed to *Physalaemus* collections in western Ecuador, and most importantly, was a pioneer in behavioral studies of *Physalaemus*. His extensive research, in collaboration with [STRI research associate] Michael Ryan has greatly enriched the understanding of animal communication systems."



More arrivals

Meshage Hunte, Drexel University, Pennsylvania, Sep 2-16, to study the response of tropical stream ecosystem structure and function to amphibian extinctions, at Fortuna and El Cope.

Departures

Klaus Winter, Aug 29 - Sep 4, to Montreal, to attend the 13th International Congress of Photosynthesis, as invited speaker.

Haris Lessios, Aug 30 - Sep 19, to the Azores, to attend a workshop on "Use of Molecular Markers for the Study of Marine Biodiversity." He will also visit Thessaloniki, Greece to collect land snails and sea urchins.

Hector Guzman, Sep 3-6, to Campeche, Mexico, to visit coral reef sites in the area, and use local libraries for reference work.

Condolences

To Adriana Bilgray and her family, for the loss of her grandmother Milka Chuljak Leko on Sunday, August 22, in Boquete, Chiriquí

New publications

Gerardo, Nicole M., Mueller, Ulrich G., Price, Shauna L., and Currie, Cameron R. 2004. "Exploiting a mutualism: parasite specialization on cultivars within the fungus-growing ant symbiosis." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London) B* 271: 1791-1798.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2004. "El naturalista Ernesto Restrepo Tirado en Darién, 1887." *"Epocas" Segunda Era (Supplement to La Prensa)* 19(5): 10-11.

En su artículo "Dos especies de *Physalaemus* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) del oeste de Ecuador" [*Herpetologica* 60(2): 261-275, agosto], Santiago R. Ron y David C. Cannatella de la Universidad de Texas en Austin y Luis A. Coloma de Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, bautizaron una nueva especie de rana, *Physalaemus randi* en honor del herpetólogo de STRI, A. Stanley Rand, "quien ha contribuido a las colecciones de *Physalaemus* del oeste de Ecuador y más importante, fue pionero en estudios de comportamiento de *Physalaemus*. Sus extensas investigaciones, en colaboración con Michael J. Ryan [investigador asociado a STRI] han enriquecido grandemente el conocimiento de los sistemas de comunicación animal."



Darwin Initiative fifth expedition: British ambassador visits R.V. Urracá

British ambassador to Panama Jim Malcolm (photo at left with researcher Susan Chambers from the Royal Museum of Scotland) visited the *R.V. Urraca* on August 13 during the fifth Darwin Initiative expedition to Las Perlas Archipelago, a three-year project sponsored by UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Heriot-Watt University (HWU) in Scotland and STRI, with support from the British Embassy in Panama. The researchers gather scientific information to map marine benthic communities using remote sensing and *in situ* surveys (diving, dredging, trawling). They also study changes in land cover and socio-economic aspects associated to the use of local resources in Las Perlas. The program aims to provide baseline scientific data to propose protective status in some areas of the Archipelago. The photo at right shows project leaders James Mair, HWU and Hector Guzmán, STRI.

Jim Malcolm, embajador británico en Panamá (foto a la izquierda con la científica Susan Chambers del Museo Real de Escocia) visitó el *R.V. Urracá* el 13 de agosto, durante la quinta expedición de la Iniciativa Darwin en Las Perlas, un proyecto de tres años patrocinado por el Departamento de Alimentación Ambiental y Asuntos Rurales del Reino Unido (DEFRA), la Universidad Heriot-Watt (HWU) en Escocia y STRI, con apoyo de la Embajada Británica en Panamá. Los investigadores recogen información científica para localizar comunidades benthicas marinas usando sensores remotos y exploraciones *in situ* (buceando, excavando, usando redes de arrastre), así como cambios en la cobertura terrestre, y estudios socio-económicos asociados al uso de recursos locales en el Archipiélago. El objetivo del proyecto es obtener información científica básica para proponer estatus de protección en ciertas regiones del área. La foto a la derecha muestra a los investigadores principales, James Mair, HWU y Héctor Guzmán, STRI.

Panamanian musical band invited to SI

SI has invited the Panamanian/Kuna musical band "Bannaba Project" to the inauguration of its Museum of the American Indian, on Sep 21. They will join indigenous groups from North, Central and South America during a six-day festival celebration. Bannaba Project plays aboriginal mystic music, 'congo', 'buyurengue' and jazz directed by Panamanian/Kuna



More publications

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2004. "Los cunas del río Tuira, Darién, según Ernesto Restrepo, 1887." *"Epocas" Segunda Era (Supplement to La Prensa)* 19(8): 10-11.

Kirby, Michael X. 2004. "Fishing down the coast: Historical expansion and collapse of oyster fisheries along continental margins." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 101(35): 13096-13099.

Martin, Lynn B., Pless, Monica, Svoboda, Julia, and Wikelski, Martin. 2004. "Immune activity in temperate and tropical house sparrows: A common-garden experiment." *Ecology* 85(8): 2323-2331.

September b'days

Audrey Smith	1
Narciso Bastidas	2
Ricardo Beteta	5
Antonio Reina	6
Rubén López	7
Rodrigo Ramírez-Blázquez	7
María Stapf	8
Virgilio Sánchez	9
Carlos Tejada	9
Nicolás Sugasti	10
Suzane Lao	11
Eric Salas	13
Liuris Herrera	14
Luis Turner	14
Jonás Jiménez	21
Xiomara Avila	22
José Deago	27
José Herrera	27
Lastenio Guzmán	28
Marla Díaz	30
Mirna Fernández	30

STRI news

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STRI, Panamá

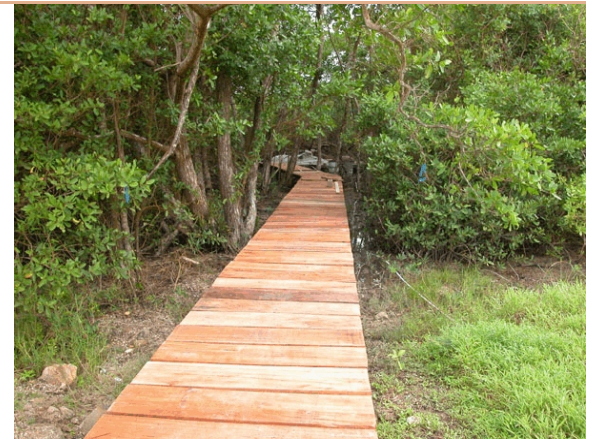


musician Marden Paniza and produced by singer-author Ricardo Vizueti, both repeatedly awarded by several cultural associations in Panama. STRI's Jorge Ventocilla, long-time student of indigenous groups, and the crew from STRI's Culebra Center are organizing a concert by the beach to contribute with the group's travel expenses to Washington DC. We'll keep you posted!

El Smithsonian invitó a la banda musical kuna/panameña "Bannaba Project" a la inauguración del Museo Nacional [de los Estados Unidos] del Indio Americano (NMAI, por sus siglas en inglés), el 21 de septiembre. La banda se reunirá con grupos indígenas de Norte, Centro y Suramérica durante un festival de celebración de seis días. Bannaba Project toca música aborigen mística, congo, buyurengue y jazz, dirigidos por Marden Paniza, reconocido músico panameño-kuna, y producidos por el canta-autor Ricardo Vizueti, ambos premiados repetidamente por asociaciones culturales de Panamá. Jorge Ventocilla de STRI, estudiante por mucho tiempo de grupos indígenas, y el equipo del Centro de Exhibiciones de Culebra están organizando un concierto con vista al mar, para contribuir con los costos de viajes del grupo a Washington DC.

Mangrove boardwalk in Galeta

Thanks to funding from Elizabeth Barber and Manzanillo International Terminal, Galeta will soon have an interpretative mangrove boardwalk that will stretch for 500m across black, red and white mangrove formations: an open classroom for students and visitors of this unique coastal forest formations threatened by development. Since its opening in 2000, the Galeta's marine educational program has become the most important in the Caribbean side of Panama. We expect a total of 5000 visitors this year.



Gracias a donaciones de Elizabeth Barber y Manzanillo International Terminal, Galeta pronto tendrá un sendero interpretativo de manglares de 500m que cruzará formaciones de manglar negro, rojo y blanco, un salón de clases abierto para estudiantes y visitantes de un bosque costero único. Desde su apertura en 2000, el programa educativo de Galeta se ha convertido en el más importante de la costa caribe de Panamá. Esperamos recibir un total de cerca de 5000 visitantes este año.



BCI summer Olympics

Barro Colorado Island celebrated the IV Summer Olympics in modern times on Sat, 21 August. Participants from the mighty island state of BCI, and from the distant autonomy of Gamboa, swept virtually all medals in such tightly contested events as: *The Gladiators*, slip-slide-jello, not-just-beach volleyball, epicurean delights, and jungle obstacles. The IV Summer Olympics was brilliantly organized by

the host island of BCI, and a spectacular sunset feast for the athletes was prepared by the celebrated chefs of this island state. Unparalleled security and oversight was provided by the nearly mythical BCNM Game wardens thus insuring the safety and well-being of athletes and spectators alike. Spectacular awards, including ornamented seed pods, and kisses from the presiding judges, were bestowed on all athletes. Congratulations to the olympian athletes and BCI for their brilliant performances.

News: courtesy of Biff Bermingham