

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, April 16, noon seminar speaker will be David Nash, University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Chemical mimicry by a large blue butterfly of its ant hosts: species specificity and coevolution**

## Bambi seminar

Please check your bulletin board and GroupWise for information on the next Bambi.

## Arrivals

Carmen Schloeder, Universität Kaiserslautern, Apr 8 -16, to work on the completion of coral sample proceeding, at Naos.

Melissa Frey, University of California at Davis, Apr 10-25, to study the geographical and ecological factors associated with species divergence in a group of circumtropical marine snails (Genus: Nerita), at Galeta.

Barrett Klein, University of Arizona, Apr 10-24, to study spatial and temporal comparative analyses of *Atta cephalotes* leaf-cutter and hitchhiker density, on BCI and Costa Rica, on a STRI/OTS award.

Daniel Rubenstein, Princeton University, Apr 14 - May 2, to teach a Princeton course, at Bocas del Toro.

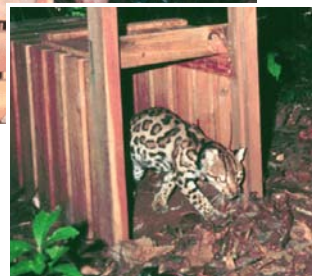
Frode Odegaard, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Apr 15 - Jun 15, to study species richness and host specificity of phytophagous beetles in two different types of tropical forests in Panama, at Ft. Sherman.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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

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## Cat project gets the cash

Martin Wikelski from Princeton University received \$243,600 from the NSF for the project "A multi-user automated telemetry system for the study of ecological interactions in a tropical rainforest. Wikelski's group includes numerous co-principal investigators like Ronald Kays from New York State Museum, Elisabeth Kalko, from STRI and the University of Ulm, and Ricardo Moreno, from STRI. Cost-sharing of \$130,000 thru STRI from the Celerity Foundation was critical to NSF's decision to support this project.

(Photos: Marcos A. Guerra)

Using above and below-canopy antennas and specialized automated receivers, the researchers will gather information from a central laboratory on BCI that will allow them to pursue basic ecological, eco-physiological, applied management, and conservation questions that are currently beyond scientific reach. In the present phase of the project, Wikelski and collaborators are addressing the importance of species interactions for the maintenance of rainforest diversity, in particular, 'keystone' predators like ocelots that may control population sizes of rodents, which in turn are major seed dispersers and predators for trees. In the photos, Ronald Kays (left) and Martin Wikelski (right) free a young ocelot after installing a collar microphone around his neck.

## Proyecto de felinos recibe fondos

Martin Wikelski de la Universidad de Princeton recibió \$243,600 de National Science Foundation (NSF) para el proyecto "Sistema de telemetría automatizado de uso múltiple para el estudio de interacciones ecológicas en un bosque lluvioso tropical." El grupo de Wikelski incluye numerosos participantes, entre ellos Ronald Kays del Museo Estatal de New York, Elisabeth Kalko, de STRI y la Universidad de Ulm, y Ricardo Moreno, de

STRI. Fondos complementarios de \$130,000 otorgados por Celerity Foundation a través de STRI, fueron decisivos en la aprobación de los fondos de NSF.

Usando antenas sobre y bajo el dosel del bosque y receptores automatizados, los investigadores recogerán información desde un laboratorio centralizado en Barro Colorado que les permitirá dar respuesta a cuestionamientos básicos sobre la ecología, eco-fisiología, conservación y manejo aplicado que se encuentran aún más allá de alcance de la ciencia. En la fase actual del proyecto, Wikelski y sus colaboradores están estudiando la importancia de las interacciones de las especies para el mantenimiento de la diversidad del bosque lluvioso, en particular depredadores claves como los ocelotes, que pueden controlar el tamaño de las poblaciones de roedores, quienes por su parte, son importantes depredadores y dispersadores de semillas de árboles. En las fotos, Ronald Kays (izquierda) y Martin Wikelski (derecha) liberan a un joven ocelote, luego de ponerle un micrófono de collar alrededor del cuello.

## More arrivals

Jacobus Boomsma, Zoological Institute, Denmark and assistants Michael Poulsen, Boris Baer, Michniel Dijkstra and David Nash from the University of Copenhagen, and Freddie Richard, from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France, Apr 15 -30, to study the evolutionary ecology of fungus-growing ants, in Gamboa.

Jeffrey Sousa, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Apr 15 - Jul 1, to work with Fredic Vencl, at Gamboa and Tupper.

## Departures

Joe Wright, Apr 8-16, to Ecuador, to visit the Yasuni Research Station.

## New publications

Laurance, William F. And Cochrane, Mark A. 2002. Fire as a large-scale edge effect in Amazonian forests. *Journal of Theoretical Ecology* 18: 311-325.

Roubik, David W. 2001. "Las abejas africanas y el café en Panamá." In Stanley Heckadon Moreno (Ed.), *Panamá: puente biológico*: 131-137. Panamá: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Windsor, Donald M. 2001. "¿Por qué hay más de 10,000 especies de escarabajos en Panamá?" In Stanley Heckadon Moreno (Ed.), *Panamá: puente biológico*: 126-130. Panamá: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Wright, S. Joseph. 2001. "El fenómeno de El Niño y los bosques de la Isla de Barro Colorado." In Stanley Heckadon Moreno (Ed.), *Panamá: puente biológico*: 112-117. Panamá: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

## More about \$\$\$

In March, STRI received a new, three-year appropriation of \$850,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to support several individual STRI endeavors in botanical research, particularly research on tropical plant communities of the past and present. Sharing in this award will be staff scientists Joe Wright, Richard Condit, Elizabeth Losos, William Laurance, Cristian Samper, Klaus Winter, Penelope Barnes, Allen Herre, and Dolores Piperno. This support extends a long-standing commitment of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to plant research at STRI.

En marzo, STRI recibió \$850,000 de la Fundación Andrew W. Mellon para un período de tres años. El propósito de los fondos es apoyar varias iniciativas individuales de STRI en investigaciones botánicas, en particular el pasado y presente de comunidades de plantas tropicales. Estos fondos serán compartidos por los científicos Joe Wright, Richard Condit, Elizabeth Losos, William F. Laurance, Cristián Samper, Klaus Winter, Penelope Barnes, Allen Herre, y Dolores Piperno. Este apoyo extiende el compromiso a largo plazo de la Fundación Andrew W. Mellon a las investigaciones botánicas en STRI

## New appointment

Leonard P. Hirsch has been assigned to work under director Ira Rubinoff in the STRI Washington Office, as public policy liaison. Hirsch will continue in his office at SI International Center, but will serve STRI and other science units in transferring of scientific information related to global climate change and biodiversity policy applications. He can be reached at 202.633.9821.

Leonard P. Hirsch ha sido asignado para trabajar bajo la supervisión del director Ira Rubinoff, en las oficinas de STRI en Washington, como enlace de políticas públicas. Hirsch mantendrá sus oficinas en el International Center de SI, pero trabajará para STRI y otras unidades científicas en la transferencia de información científica relacionada con los cambios del clima global y aplicaciones de políticas para la biodiversidad. Su teléfono en Washington es 202-633-9821.

## A fond farewell

Cherie Wasoff, writer in STRI's Development Office, accepted a new position with Conservation International in Washington DC. Cherie worked for STRI since September, 2000.

She has been involved in myriad projects, including writing a new STRI brochure, composing numerous proposals, and hosting many visitors to STRI, among them Joan Siedenberg, the Smithsonian National Board and the Women's Committee. Cherie will be missed greatly, and we wish her the best of luck!

## "A global experiment under way"

*Science* is inviting scientists to a debate following an article by Terborgh et al. published last year. The article, "Ecological meltdown in predator-free forest fragments" presents the case of Lake Guri in Venezuela, where a set of predator-free islands were created by a hydroelectric impoundment in 1986. The same issue of *Science* includes a "Perspective" of Jared Diamond, pointing out that Lake Guri does offer a natural experiment if complemented with Gatun Lake's Barro Colorado Island formed in 1913 and the Minimum Area Project in the Brazilian Amazon near Manaus isolated around 1980. To expand Diamond's proposal, da Fonseca et al. published the letter "A global experiment under way" on March 8 (*Science*, vol. 295, no. 5561: 1835) stating that a "natural" fragmentation experiment on a grand scale is possible. The Major Tropical Wilderness Areas of the Amazon, Congo and New Guinea would serve as controls. The data would be provided by large-scale monitoring projects in STRI's field sites, STRI's Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragment Project in Brazil, Costa Rican Inbio inventories, the International Long-Term Ecological Research Program, the All Species Foundation, the recently announced Tropical Ecology, Assessment and Monitoring (TEAM), the Landsat data, etc. According to the letter, "The grand-scale experiment is already under way, and answers to biodiversity challenges can emerge before it's too late for their application toward conservation. It's now a question of resources, scientific wit, and a collaborative global research environment."

## Miscellaneous

**For sale:** Schnauzer Miniature popies, two males, one female, vaccinated. Both parents can be seen. Please contact Zuleika Maynard at 224-1991 or 638-7000.

**For sale:** Chevrolet Blazer, 1991, standard. Good conditions. \$2,500 negotiable. Contact Karl Gruber at gruberk@naos.si.edu