

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, January 7, noon seminar speaker will be Paul Barber, Boston University
Larval dispersal, biogeography and evolution for Indo-West Pacific mantis shrimps: Lessons from genetics and implications for marine conservation

Bambi seminar

Thursday, January 9, Bambi seminar speaker will be Ed Tanner, University of Cambridge
Tree seedling response to above- and belowground competition.

Arrivals

Carmen Schloeder, intern from the University of Kaiserslautern, Jan 4 - Apr 5, to study the population ecology and genetics of *Porites furcata*, at Naos.

Karl Gruber, intern from the University of Panama at Chiriquí, Jan 4 - Jun 30, to study the development and sex change in *Crepidula*, at Naos.

Bruce Stockley, US, Jan 6-31, to collaborate with Haris Lessios, at Naos.

Paul Barber and Mark Erdmann, Boston University, Jan 7-13, to study the connectivity among Caribbean stomatopod populations, at Galeta and Bocas.

Kelly Andersen, University of Illinois, Jan 7 - Aug 22, to study the variation in biotic and abiotic controls in recruitment success along an elevational gradient, at Fortuna and Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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(Photo: Olga F. Linares)

New rice for Africa: Linares, PNAS

STRI staff scientist Olga F. Linares published the article “African rice (*Oryza glaberrima*): History and future potential” in the December issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 99(25): 16360-16365. The African species of rice (*O. glaberrima*) was cultivated long before Europeans arrived in the African continent. At present, *O. glaberrima* is being replaced by the introduced Asian species of rice, *Oryza sativa*. Some West African farmers, including the Jola of southern Senegal—under study by Linares since the 1960s— still grow African rice for use in ritual contexts. The two species of rice have recently been crossed by scientists of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA), producing a promising hybrid named “New Rice for Africa” (NERICA), that combines the hardiness of the African species with the productivity of the Asian species. According to

Linares, the basis for this success story is to be found in those West African farmers who continued to grow the ancient *O. glaberrima* varieties of rice despite the introduction of the new Asian species. Their knowledge, expertise, and continued adherence to their traditional rice provided the basis for experiments that resulted in the creation of the promising new hybrid.

La antropóloga de STRI, Olga F. Linares, publicó el artículo “African rice (*Oryza glaberrima*): History and future potential” [Arroz africano (*Oryza glaberrima*): historia y futuro potencial] en el número de diciembre de *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 99(25): 16360-16365. La especie de arroz africano (*O. glaberrima*) se cultivaba mucho antes de que llegaran los europeos al continente africano. Actualmente, *O. glaberrima* se está reemplazando por la especie de arroz asiático *Oryza sativa*. Algunos agricultores en Africa occidental, incluyendo los Jola del sur de Senegal—sujeto de estudios de Linares desde la década de los 60's—todavía cultivan arroz africano para ser usado en rituales. Las dos especies de arroz fueron cruzadas por científicos de WARDA (Asociación para el Desarrollo de Arroz de Africa Occidental) produciendo un híbrido prometedor llamado “Nuevo Arroz para Africa” (NERICA, por sus siglas en inglés) que combina la dureza de las especies africanas, con la productividad de las especies asiáticas. De acuerdo a Linares, la base de tan exitoso resultado se encuentra en aquellos agricultores de Africa occidental, quienes siguieron cultivando las especies antiguas de arroz *O. glaberrima* a pesar de la introducción de las nuevas especies asiáticas. Sus conocimientos, experiencia y adhesión a su arroz tradicional ofrecieron la base para experimentos que resultaron en este nuevo y prometedor híbrido.

Linares, PNAS: Nuevo arroz para Africa

More arrivals

Enzo Rossel, SUNY at New York, Jan 7-25, to study the effect of food distribution and spatial scale on the home ranges of the agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) at the BCNM

Thierry Hance, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, Jan 7-17, to study the parasitoid guild of tropical Cassidines and Hispinae from Panama, on BCI and Gamboa.

Jean Isabelle, New York State Museum, Jan 7 - Apr 15, to study interactions between ocelots and their prey, on BCI

Roland Kays, New York State Museum, Jan 7-23, to continue with the automated telemetry project, on BCI.

Lawren Sack, short-term fellow from Harvard University, Jan 8 - Apr 8, to study hydrology of tropical leaves: linking leaf hydraulic conductance with leaf structure and physiology, on BCI

Deborah Siegel, SI, Jan 8-22, to work on the Ornithological GAZETTER for Panama, at Tupper.

Penny Barnes, Jan 8-14, to continue research at STRI.

Jason Cochran, NEO fellow from McGill University, Jan 9 - Jul 9, to evaluate sustainable agriculture projects in Panama, at Tupper.

Henry Schumacher, University of Minnesota, Jan 10 - Feb 28, to work with Stefan Schnitzer, on BCI and Gigante.

Ellen Clark, short-term fellow from Monash University, Australia, Jan 10 - Mar 10, to study foraging strategies of the leaf-cutter ants *Acromyrmex octropinosus* and *Atta colombica*, on BCI.

CTFS new program assistant

The Center for Tropical Forest Science welcomes new program assistant E. Marie Massa. Massa has a background on plant-insect interactions and has an environmental degree from the University of Colorado. She has worked on BCI as research assistant to Phyllis Coley, and at Earth Communications Office (ECO) in Los Angeles, CA. At STRI, she will assist with the coordination of CTFS workshops and activities, and oversee the production of the annual newsletter, *CTFS Inside*.

El Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico (CTFS) le dá la bienvenida a su nueva asistente de programas, E. Marie Massa. Massa tiene una formación en interacciones entre plantas e insectos y un título en ciencias ambientales de la Universidad de Colorado. Ha trabajado como asistente de investigación de Phyllis Coley en BCI, y en la Oficina de Comunicaciones Terrestres en Los Angeles, California. En STRI, asistirá en la coordinación de talleres y actividades del CTFS, y supervisará la producción del boletín anual, *CTFS Inside*.



11,312 students visited Culebra in 2002

STRI's Center for Marine Exhibitions in Punta Culebra received 11,312 students from 122 private and public schools in Panama for the program "You and the Sea with the Smithsonian" in 2002. New docents and 22 activities were added to the program, where students and teachers enjoyed an experience designed to strengthen their knowledge of tropical biodiversity and about STRI research activities on the Isthmus. For summer vacation, the Center will open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-6pm.

El Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas de STRI recibió 11,312 estudiantes de 122 escuelas públicas y privadas durante 2002, en el programa "Tú y el Mar con el Smithsonian." Durante ese año se unieron al programa nuevos docentes y 22 nuevas actividades, donde estudiantes y maestros disfrutaron de una experiencia diseñada para reforzar sus conocimientos en biodiversidad tropical y las actividades de investigación que realiza STRI en el Istmo. Durante las vacaciones de verano, el Centro tendrá un horario especial de martes a domingos de 10am a 6pm.

Departures

Rachel Collin, Jan 4-9, to Toronto, Canada, to attend the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meetings

Ira Rubinoff, Jan 7-10, to Washington DC, on official business at SI.

Condolences

To John and Beate Christy for the death of his father Myron Mathias "Chris" Christy on Friday, December 27, in Larkspur, California.

Congratulations!

To Teresa and José Barahona, for the birth of their daughter Anabella Giselle, on Monday, December 29. She weighed 7lb and 1oz and measured 50cm.

January birthdays

Fernando Pascal	4
Rafael Batista	5
Víctor Quintana	6
Carlos Guevara	7
Seberino Valdés	8
Julia Areas	8
Anayansi Valderrama	15
Omar Hernández	17
Joe Wright	17
José Sánchez Díaz	18
Enrique Marciaga	19
Karel Muñoz	19
Mirza Murillo	19
Digna Matías	20
Sebastián Bernal	20
José Monteza	26
Carlos A. Vergara	27
José Ernesto Maynard	27
Miriam Medina	28
Roxana Durán	28
Agapito González	29
Noris Salazar	30
Eyda Gómez	31