**STRInews**

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá           www.stri.org             July 5, 2002  

**STRIweb.si.edu**  
STRI’s Office of Information  
Technology launched the improved site  
STRI IntraWeb, this past week. The site  
includes news important to the STRI  
community, information of every  
department and facility, services, and all  
sort of useful data for the scientific and  
administrative staff, fellows, associates  
and visiting scientists. Peter Brumwig,  
STRI webmaster from OIT and Olga  
Barrio from the STRI Communication  
team, thank all those who participated in  
the production of this site. Don’t miss it!

**New fee charging system:**  
**1000% better**  

Effective Monday, July 1st, STRI implemented a new administrative  
system that will charge fees online from every STRI station and  
facility that is connected to the STRI network. The system was  
designed to charge fees and supplies to visitors, fellows, as well as to  
the STRI staff. Charges can be done online, account balances can be  
seen at any time and payments will be accepted at all these stations.  
The system also issues receipts after every transaction. According to  
comptroller Leopoldo León, “this will speed up all STRI financial  
procedures to the point that efficiency will be improved in 1000%,  
and will substantially reduce errors.” (Photo: Marcos A. Guerra)

A partir del lunes 1ro de julio, STRI puso en marcha un nuevo sistema administrativo que hace  
cargos en línea desde cualquier estación de STRI que esté conectada con la red. El sistema fue  
diseñado para hacer cargos por servicios y útiles a visitantes, becarios y personal de STRI. Al  
hacerse los cargos en línea, se pueden consultar los saldos en cualquier momento y se pueden hacer  
los pagos en todas las estaciones. El sistema también emitirá recibos luego de cada transacción. De  
acuerdo al contador, Leopoldo León, “este sistema agilizará de tal forma todos los procesos  
financieros de STRI, que se logrará un 1000% más de eficiencia, y se reducirán substancialmente los  
erores.”

**Arrivals**  
Elizabeth Losos, STRI, Jul 6 - Aug 5, to participate at the  
CTFS workshops and attend the ATB meetings.

Priya Davidar, senior fellow from Pondicherry University,  
India, Jul 21 - Jun 30, 2003,  
to work on the beta diversity  
in the rain forests of the  
Western Ghats, India, on  
BCI.

Wayne Sousa, Robyn Raban,  
Meera Venkatesan, Jaco  
Gunn and Ian Herriot, Uni-  
versity of California at Berke-  
ley, Jul 8 - 28, to study pat-  
terns and mechanisms of can-  
opy tree regeneration in a  
Caribbean mangrove forest,  
at Galeta.

Stuart West, short-term visi-  
tor from the University of  
Edinburgh, UK, Jul 8 - Aug  
14, to test the theories of  
conflicts of interest within  
mutualism, sex allocation, and  
kin selection in the fig/fig  
wasp system, on BCI.

Bernd Freymann, STRI-OTS  
fellow, Zoologisches  
Forschungsinstitut und Mu-  
seum Alexander Koenig,  
Germany, Jul 10 - 25, to  
study fungal rhizomorphs, on  
BCI and Costa Rica.

**Tupper seminar**  
Tuesday, July 9, noon  
seminar speaker will be  
Egbert G. Leigh, Jr.  
Trying to assess the role of  
pests in maintaining  
tropical tree diversity

**Bambi seminar**  
Thu, Jul 11, Bambi seminar  
speaker will be Denise  
Hardesty, University of  
Georgia  
Title to be announced.

**Photo:** Marcos A. Guerra
More arrivals
Meredith Blackwell, William Hampton and Joseph McHugh, University of Georgia; James Robertson, Brigham Young University and Sung-Oui Suh, Louisiana State University, Jul 12-23, to study beetles and their yeast endosymbiont from basidiocarp habitats, on BCI.

Departure
William F. Laurance, Jul 6-25, to Manaus, Brazil, to attend the Annual Scientific Conference of the NASA-LBA Program. Then he will travel to the UK, to attend the meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology and the British Ecological Society in Kent. Laurance will also present seminars before the Royal Zoological Society in London, and at Cambridge University, in Cambridge.

Congratulations
To Milton N. García, who received a master’s degree in Evaluation of Environmental Impact with honors from the Santa María Catholic University in Panama, on Friday, June 28.

New publications


“Week with the Smithsonian”
STRI hosted the program “Week with the Smithsonian” from Monday, June 24 to Friday, June 28 from 7:30 to 9pm, at CEFA-T-IPAT, on Isla Colón, Bocas. This activity was celebrating June, month dedicated to natural resources in Panama, and aimed to make the Bocas community aware of STRI research activities and educational programs in Panama. A very successful “Open-House” for students took place the morning of Wednesday June 26 at the STRI station in Isthmo, with the participation of STRI staff scientists and support personnel. In the first photo, Maurice Thomas, Palm Beach Atlantic College, FL, explains his research on bats to the students. In the second, Suzanne Gray, from the University of Guelph, explains the biology of echinoderms to the young visitors. (Photo: Louis Mon)

STRI celebró una “Semana con el Smithsonian” del lunes 24 al viernes 28 de junio de 7:30- 9pm en CEFA-T-IPAT, Isla Colón, Bocas. La actividad tuvo como objetivo celebrar el mes de junio, dedicado a los recursos naturales en Panamá, y llamar la atención sobre los proyectos de investigación y los programas educativos que STRI realiza en el istmo. Durante la mañana del miércoles 26 de junio se abrieron las puertas de la Estación Marina de STRI en Isthmo, evento que contó con la participación de científicos de STRI y personal de apoyo, que resultó muy exitoso. En las fotos (arriba) Mark Littler, de SI, explica su trabajo sobre corales. Abajo, Suzanne Gray, de la Universidad de Guelph, explica la biología de equinodermos a los jóvenes visitantes.

New fellows at STRI Nuevos becarios de STRI
- Priya Davidar, senior fellow from Pondicherry University, India, from July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003. “Beta diversity in the rain forests of the western Ghats, India. Advisors: Egbert Leigh and Joe Wright.
- Scott Mangan, predoctoral fellow from Indiana University, June 1, 2002 - June 1, 2003. “Do neotropical rodents influence forest regeneration by dispersing spores of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi?” Advisor: Allen Herre.