

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, noon seminar speaker will be Gerhard Zotz, University of Basel

**(Almost) all your ever wanted to know about epiphytes.**

## Bambi seminar

Please consult your GroupWise and bulletin board for information on the next Bambi seminar on BCI.

## Arrivals

Kaoru Kitajima, University of Florida, Mar 30-Aug 15, to work on the functional bases for the trade-off between growth and survival of tree seedlings, on BCI and Gamboa.

Heidi Connahs, short-term fellow from the University of Brighton, UK, Apr 1 - Jun 30, to study patters of parasitism in Lepidopteran larvae in the canopy versus the understory and across a rainfall gradient, at Tupper.

Juliet Pulliam, Apr 3, to learn radio-telemetry techniques with Martin Wikelski, on BCI.

Danielle Temple, University of Wyoming, Apr 5-30, to work with Rachel Page on prey preferences of *Trachops cirrhosus* behavioral flexibility in a frog-eating bat, on BCI.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

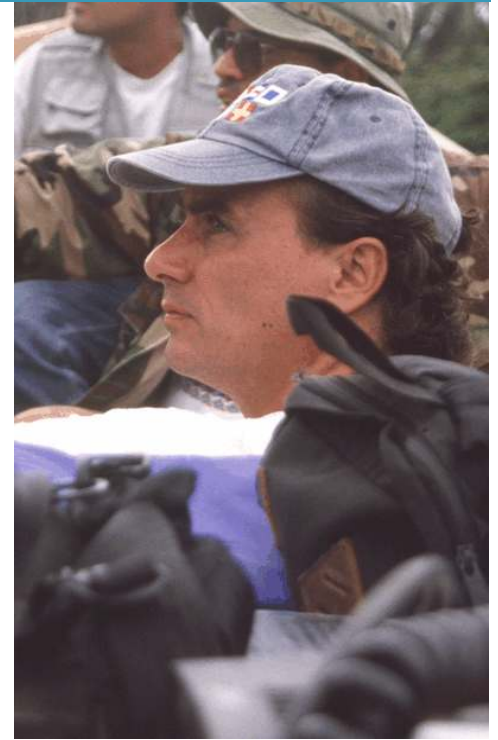
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March 28, 2003

## Rubinoff appoints Bermingham acting deputy director

Director Ira Rubinoff announced the appointment of evolutionary biologist Eldredge Bermingham for the position of acting deputy director effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Bermingham joined STRI in 1989 when he held an Alfred Sloan Postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University. He helped establish the first molecular biology laboratory at STRI and has since conducted a successful research program concentrating on the biogeography and evolutionary origins and relationships of a variety of organisms. He has published more than 75 papers in journals like *Science*, *Nature*, *American Naturalist*, *Evolution*, etc and has introduced more than 35 fellows to molecular evolutionary techniques. He will split his time between his research at the Molecular Laboratories and his duties in the Director's Office. According to Rubinoff, "STRI will benefit from his broad scientific knowledge, perspective and vision as we move to implement the recommendations of the Smithsonian's Science Commission."

El director Ira Rubinoff anunció la designación de Eldredge Bermingham como subdirector encargado a partir del 1ro de abril de 2003. Bermingham se unió a STRI en 1989 cuando era titular de una beca postdoctoral Alfred Sloan de la Universidad de Cornell. Ayudó a establecer el primer laboratorio de biología molecular en STRI y desde entonces ha llevado a cabo un programa exitoso de investigaciones que se concentra en los orígenes evolutivos y de biogeografía y las relaciones de una variedad de organismos. Ha publicado más de 75 artículos en *Science*, *Nature*, *American Naturalist*, *Evolution*, etc., y ha apoyado a más de 35 becarios en el aprendizaje de técnicas de biología molecular evolutiva. Dividirá su tiempo entre sus investigaciones en los Laboratorios Moleculares de Naos y sus actividades en la Oficina del Director. De acuerdo a Rubinoff, "STRI se beneficiará de su amplio conocimiento científico, perspectiva y visión mientras nos preparamos a poner en marcha las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Ciencias del Smithsonian."



## Panamanian rectors from 11 universities visit STRI



Rectors from public and private universities visited STRI on Thursday, March 20, to learn about the Institute's activities. They were briefed by deputy director Cristián Samper on STRI projects and programs, and by chief librarian Vielka Chang Yau, on the services the Library provides to students and the general public. In the photo, STRI officials Elena Lombardo, Cristián Samper and Vielka Chang Yau, join rectors from eleven universities.

## Departures

Ira Rubinoff, Apr 2-9, to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, on official business.

David Roubik, Apr 2-7, to Costa Rica, to represent STRI at the OTS Board meeting.

Rick Condit, Apr 2 - May 1<sup>st</sup>, to New York, to visit the Institute for Advanced Studies and present seminar. Then to California, to work on elephant seal database with colleagues at the University of California in Santa Cruz.

## New publications

Jousselin, Emmanuelle, Hossaert-McKey, Martine, Herre, Edward Allen, and Kjellberg, Finn. 2003. "Why do fig wasps actively pollinate monoecious figs?" *Oecologia* 134(3): 381-387.

Novotny, Vojtech, Basset, Yves, and Kitching, Roger L. 2003. "Herbivore assemblages and their food resources." In Basset, Yves, Novotny, Vojtech, Miller, Scott E., and Kitching, Roger L. (Eds.), *Arthropods of tropical forests: Spatio-temporal dynamics and resource use in the canopy*: 40-56. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Simon, Ulrich, Gossner, Martin, and Linsenmair, K. Eduard. 2003. "Distribution of ants and bark-beetles in crowns of tropical oaks." In Basset, Yves, Novotny, Vojtech, Miller, Scott E., and Kitching, Roger L. (Eds.), *Arthropods of tropical forests: Spatio-temporal dynamics and resource use in the canopy*: 59-68. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

El Consejo de Rectores de universidades públicas y privadas de Panamá visitó STRI el miércoles 20 de marzo, para conocer sobre las actividades del Instituto. El subdirector Cristián Samper les habló sobre los proyectos de investigación y programas educativos, y Vielka Chan-Yau, directora de la Biblioteca, sobre los servicios que ofrece la Biblioteca a estudiantes y público en general. En la foto, funcionarios de STRI Elena Lombardo, Cristián Samper y Vielka Chang-Yau se unen para una foto de grupo con rectores de once universidades.

## Fishy exhibit at STRI



Step through the jaws of an extinct shark into STRI's new exhibit "Panamá: Where fish abound" at our Marine Exhibitions Center on Culebra Point. The bilingual exhibit, sponsored by STRI's Office of Education, offers the community a window into scientific research combined with practical information about sport fishing, the fishing industry, ecology of undersea creatures, historical uses of fish, and conservation efforts in Panamá. Curators Argelis Ruiz and Marco Diaz were inspired by Gerald Allen and Ross Robertson's book *Fishes of the tropical eastern Pacific* (1994). Designed by Lina Gonzalez, produced by Alberto Castillo and Ivan Patiño, the colorful interactive exhibit represents a marvelous team effort by STRI scientific and support staff. Please call STRI at 212-8171 to schedule special visits.

Camine a través de la mandíbula de un tiburón extinto en la nueva exhibición de STRI "Panamá: Abundancia de Peces" en nuestro Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Punta Culebra. Esta exhibición bilingüe, patrocinada por la Oficina de Educación de STRI, ofrece a la comunidad una ventana para aprender sobre las investigaciones científicas y brinda información práctica sobre el deporte de la pesca, la industria pesquera, ecología de criaturas submarinas, usos históricos de los peces, y los esfuerzos conservacionistas en Panamá. Los curadores Argelis Ruiz y Marco Díaz se inspiraron en el libro de Gerald Allen y D. Ross Robertson *Peces del Pacífico Oriental Tropical* (1994). Diseñada por Lina González y producida por Alberto Castillo e Ivan Patiño, esta colorida exhibición interactiva representa un gran logro del personal científico y de apoyo de STRI. Favor llamar a STRI al 212-8171 para programar visitas especiales.

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## For sale

Items left for sale by Dolores Piperno: A/C 12000 BTU \$200. A/C Split 28000 BTU. \$800. Gibson gas dryer \$250 Washing machine RCA \$250 Across stove 30" \$225. Interested please contact Irene Holst at 212-8076.

Stuntz, Sabine, Simon, Ulrich, and Zotz, Gerhard. 2003. "Arthropod seasonality in tree crowns with different epiphyte loads." In Basset, Yves, Novotny, Vojtech, Miller, Scott E., and Kitching, Roger L. (Eds.), *Arthropods of tropical forests: Spatio-temporal dynamics and resource use in the canopy*: 176-188. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wcislo, William T. 2003. "Ants lurk for bees, but bees see ambush." *Science News* 163(12): 190.

Zotz, Gerhard, Vollrath, Birgit, and Schmidt, Gerold. 2003. "Carbon relations of fruits of epiphytic orchids." *Flora* 198(1): 98-105.

## April birthdays

Helena Fortunato	1
Sabina Walker	1
Diomedes Abrego	1
Ricardo Jaen	1
Nelson Hernández	1
Luis Mejía,	1
Luis A. Sánchez	2
Axel Calderón	2
Mercedes Denis	3
Luis Moreno	7
Dolores Piperno	7
Nelly Flores	9
Gabriel Martínez	9
Apolonio Valdez	10
Marcela Paz	10
Nivia Rios	11
Ricardo Chong	11
Efraín Domínguez	12
Vielka Rodríguez	12
Blanca Araúz	13
América Staff	14
Jorge Ceballos	22
Ismael González	23
César Alvarez	25
Rubén Gall	26
Marcos Guerra	27
Jeannette Egger	28
Mario Smith	30