STRI news 2004

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá **www.stri.org** May 7, 2004

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 11, noon seminar speaker will be Nancy Knowlton, STRI
Marine biodiversity: from corals to microbes

Bambi seminar

Please check GroupWise for information on the next Bambi seminar on BCI.

Bocas' talk

Thu, May 13, 7pm, CEFATI Conference Hall, Bocas Monthly Talk speaker will be Carmen Schloeder, Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen, Germany
Influencia de la actividad humana en arrecifes de coral y su efecto en la reproducción

Arrivals

Paulo Morais, Universidade do Algarve, Portugal, May 5 - Sept 1, to work with Helena Fortunato in artisanal fisheries and sustainable development, at Galeta.

Forrest Brem, Southern Illinois University, May 9 - Aug 9, to work with Karen Lips, in Fortuna and El Copé.

Patrick Jansen, University of Groeningen, May 10 - Oct 10, to study tropical seed dispersal in a multi-trophic context: an automated radio telemetry study, in Gamboa.

Kyle Harms, Louisiana State University, May 10 - Jun 15, to attend the Soils and Hydrology Workshop 2004, on BCI and Gamboa.

Dorothy Tuthill, University of Wyoming, May 12-26, to study the endophyte community of bromeliads, on BCI.

Dendrobates pumilio: Do not kiss

Panamanian poison dart frog *Dendrobates pumilio* from Bocas del Toro: Do not kiss. Some frogs fend off predators by lacing their skin with toxins concentrated from their food. Panamanian poison dart frogs defend themselves by loading up on particularly potent compounds called pumilotoxins. STRI visiting scientists at Bocas del Toro Ralph A. Saporito, Maureen A. Donnelly and Adam L. Edwards from Florida International University, H. Martin Garraffo and John Daly from the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry and John T. Longino from Evergreen State College reported on May 5, in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (online) that they have figured out where the frogs get them--from a species of ant, the first ever found to contain such chemicals. The article "Formicine ants: An arthropod source for the pumiliotoxin alkaloids of dendrobatid poison frogs" will be soon available at **calderom@si.edu** (Information taken from *Science Now*).

Rana venenosa panameña *Dendobates pumilio* de Bocas del Toro: No besar. Algunas ranas alejan a sus depredadores envenenado su piel con toxinas obtenidos a través de su alimento. Las ranas venenosas de Panamá se defienden a sí mismas cargándose de componentes particularmente potentes llamados pumilo-toxinas. Los científicos visitantes de STRI en Bocas del Toro, Ralph A. Saporito, Maureen A. Donnelly y Adam L. Edwards de la Universidad Internacional de Florida, H. Martin Garraffo y John Daly del Laboratorio de Química Bio-orgánica y John T. Longino de Evergreen State College, reportaron el 5 de mayo, en *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (via internet) que han descubierto de dónde las ranas obtienen su veneno—de una especie de hormiga, la primera que se ha encontrado que contiene estos químicos. El artículo "Formicine ants: An arthropod source for the pumiliotoxin alkaloids of dendrobatid poison frogs" estará disponible en un futuro próximo en **calderom@.si.edu** (Información tomada de *Science Now*)

More arrivals

Sarah Benfield, Heriot-Watt University, UK, May 12 - Jun 3, to work with the Darwin Initiative Project – Las Perlas Archipelago assessment of the reef fish in relation to habitat types, at Naos.

Panagiotis Gardelis, Heriot-Watt University, May 12 - Jun 19, to work with the Darwin Initiative Project, at Naos.

Laura Baxter, Heriot-Watt University, May 12 - Jun 5, to work with the Darwin Initiative, at Naos.

Tania Kershaw, Heriot-Watt University, May 12 - Jun 2, to conduct a taxonomic study of Chaetognaths, at Bocas del Toro.

Eloisa Lasso, University of Illinois, May 12 - May 30, to explore carbon allocation to reproduction within the genus *Piper,* on BCI.

Mary Jane West-Eberhard, May 12-18, to consult with colleagues at STRI.

Departures

Fernando Pascal, May 10-14, to Washington DC on official business at SI.

Congratulations

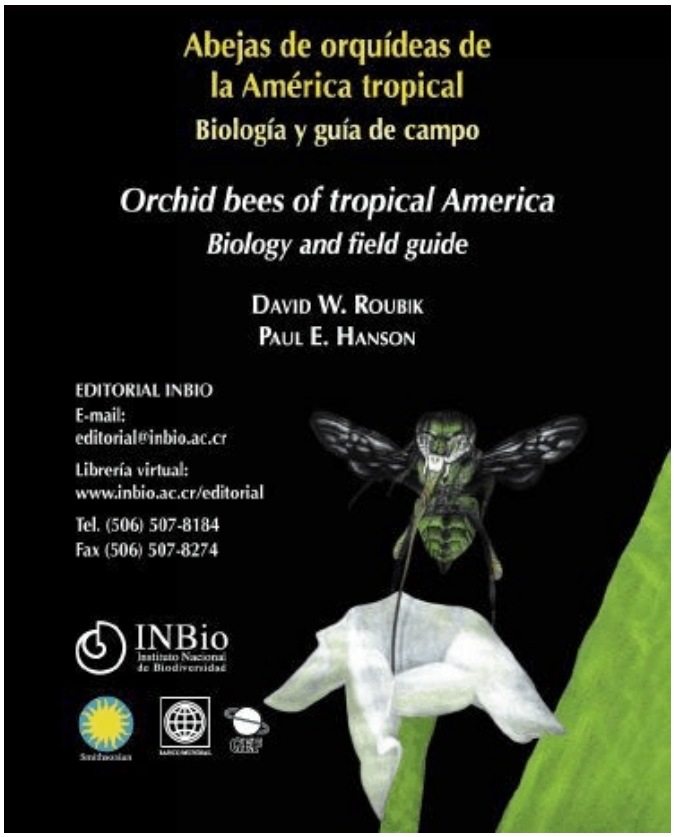
To Dayra Navarro, who just received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Universidad Latina de Panama, on March 27.

New publications

Banford, Heidi M., Bermingham, Eldredge, and Collette, Bruce B. 2004. "Molecular phylogenetics and biogeography of transisthmian and amphi-Atlantic needlefishes (Belonidae: *Strongylura* and *Tylosurus*): perspectives on New World marine speciation." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 31: 833-851.

New STRI book

The book *Abejas de orquídeas de la América tropical: Biología y guía de campo. Orchid bees of tropical America: Biology and feld guide* by STRI's entomologist David W. Roubik and Paul E. Hanson from the University of Costa Rica was just published by Editorial INBio in Costa Rica. The World Bank, GEF, the Japanese Science Foundation and the Inoue Endowment Fund contributed to the production of the book making the price available to everybody. The book was published in both Spanish and English. Beautifully illustrated, has 265 color photographs by Roubik, Thomas Eltz, Marcos Guerra, Michael S. Engel, Phil deVries, Enrique Moreno and Oxford Scientific Films. It can be obtained for $17 at **www.inbio.ac.cr/editorial**



El libro *Abejas de orquídeas de la América tropical: Biología y guía de campo. Orchid bees of tropical America: Biology and feld guide* por el científico de STRI David W. Roubik y Paul E. Hanson de la Universidad de Costa Rica acaba de ser publicado por Editorial INBio en Costa Rica. El Banco Mundial, GEF, la Fundación para Ciencias del Japón y el Fondo Inoue contribuyeron a la producción de este libro, logrando que su precio estuviera al alcance de todos. El libro fue publicado en español e inglés. Bellamente ilustrado, cuenta con 265 fotografías a color de Roubik, Thomas Eltz, Marcos Guerra, Michael S. Engel, Phil deVies, Enrique Moreno y Oxford Scientific Films. Puede obtenerse por $17 en **www.inbio.ac.cr/editorial**

STRI's Safety and Security Committee, the Office of Human Resources and the Marine Exhibition Center at Punta Culebra organized an afternoon of exercise and relaxation in the Amador Causeway that included a non-competitive walk from Culebra in Naos Island to Flamenco Island, and back, on Friday, May 7. The photo shows the group on their way to Flamenco.

El Comité de Seguridad y Salud Ocupacional de STRI, la Oficina de Recursos Humanos y el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas en Punta Culebra organizaron una tarde de ejercicios y relajamiento en la Calzada de Amador que incluyó una caminata no-competitiva de Culebra en Isla Naos hasta Isla Flamenco y regreso, el viernes, 7 de mayo. La foto muestra al grupo camino a Flamenco.

More publications

Duda, Thomas F., Jr., and Palumbi, Stephen R. 2004. "Gene expression and feeding ecology: evolution of piscivory in the venomous gastropod genus *Conus*." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London) B.* Online.

Piperno, Dolores R. 2004. "Crop domestication in the American tropics: Phytolith analyses." In Robert Goodman (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Plant & Crop Science*: 326-329: Dekker, Inc.

Piperno, Dolores P., and Holst, Irene. 2004. "Crop domestication in the American tropics: Starch grain analyses." In Robert Goodman (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Plant & Crop Science*: 330-332: Dekker, Inc.

Potts, Matthew D., Davies, Stuart J., Bossert, William H., Tan, S., and Nur Supardi, M.N. 2004. "Habitat heterogeneity and niche structure of trees in two tropical rain forests." *Oecologia* 139: 139: 446–453.

Saporito, Ralph A., Garraffo, H. Martin, Donnelly, Maureen A., Edwards, Adam L., Longino, John T., and Daly, John W. 2004. "Formicine ants: An arthropod source for the pumiliotoxin alkaloids of dendrobatid poison frogs." *Proceedigns of the National Academy of Sciences* (Online) May 5.

Summers, Kyle, Cronin, Thomas W., and Kennedy, Timothy. 2004. "Cross-breeding of distinct color morphs of the Strawberry Poison Frog (*Dendrobates pumilio*) from the Bocas del Toro Archipelago, Panama." *Journal of Herpetology* 38(1): 1-8.

New STRI´s attorney

Rodrigo Ramírez-Blazquez has been selected to join the STRI staff as the new attorney, effective May 24. Ramirez obtained his bachelor´s degree in Law and Political Sciences from the Universidad Católica Santa María La Antigua (USMA) and a master´s degree in International, Commercial and Financial Law at Tulane University. Recently, he received another master´s degree in Business Administration and Finance from Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencias y Tecnología

Rodrigo Ramírez-Blazquez fue seleccionado para unirse al personal de STRI como nuevo asesor legal, a partir del 24 de mayo. Ramírez obtuvo su licenciatura en Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad Católica Santa María La Antigua (USMA) y una mestría en Derecho Internacional, Comercial y de Finanzas de la Universidad de Tulane. Recientemente, obtuvo otra mestría en Administración de Empresas con énfasis en Finanzas de la Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencias y Tecnología, con honores. Le damos la bienvenida a la comunidad de STRI.

Watering hole at Culebra

A watering hole resembling a small jungle waterfall was completed in Culebra by the side of the dry forest trail. The lack of fresh water during the dry season used to be severe for the local fauna. The watering hole was build by STRI personnel in Culebra Jonas Jiménez and Juan Martinez with the help of students Josué Flores and Jonás Jiménez Jr., who used their dry season holidays to help with the project. Carlos Grael contributed with plumbing and pumps. Thanks to all.

Se ha construido un bebedero que semeja un manantial natural a la vera del sendero del bosque seco en Culebra. La falta de agua dulce en la estación seca era un problema severo para la fauna del área. El bebedero fue construido por personal de STRI en Culebra, Jonás Jiménez y Juan Martínez junto con dos estudiantes, Josué Flores y Jonás Jiménez hijo, quienes utilizaron sus días libres en la estación seca para ayudar al proyecto. Carlos Grael contribuyó con la plomería y bombas de agua. Nuestros agradecimientos a todos.

News from Galeta

Thanks to the Smithsonian Libraries a computer has been placed in the Library of the Galeta Marine Laboratory, located at the entrance to the Panama Canal. The computer provide access to the following services:

- **the STRI Library website at http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/stri-hp.htm**
- **the list of STRI journals at http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/STRI-Serial-list/pdf**
- **Tools for the Researcher at http://www.sil.si.edu/research/index.htm**
- **the on line catalog at http://siris-libraries.si.edu/#focus**
- **databases http://www.sil.si.edu/research/online/databases/index.htm, especially Biological Abstracts and Zoological Record, widely used by biological researchers**
- **over 1,100 electronic journals http://web4.si.edu/sil/ejournal/tfr_index.cfm**
- **digitized publications**
- **and many reference and Internet resources**

Using this workstation readers can ask for book loans within SI, using the "My Account" feature. Books arrive at the Library in Acon and patrons receive them in the interoffice mail, via the Library. The STRI Libray is cataloguing all the books at Galeta cataloged. Training, searching assistance, and aid in the protection and conservation of the collection at the site, are other responsibilities of the library staff at the research station. On behalf of STRI´s crew at Galeta and library users in Colon, our warmest thanks to: Mary Augusta Thomas, Vielka Chang-Yau, Angel Aguirre and Elizabeth Sánchez.