

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 13, noon seminar speaker will be Richard E. Rice, Conservation International, Washington DC
Conservation Concessions: A new tool for conservation in the tropics

Bambi seminar

Thursday, May 15, Bambi seminar speaker will be Anurag Agrawal, University of Toronto. The title will be announced via GroupWise.

Arrivals

Erin Moore, A&S Institute of Ecology, Georgia, May 11 - Jul 12, to work as volunteer with John Pickering, on BCI.

Katherine Beebe, Princeton University, May 11 - Jun 30, to work with Michaela Hau, in Gamboa.

Silvia Alvarez, University of Florida, May 12 - Aug 15, to work with Kaoru Kitajima, on BCI and Gamboa.

Gregor McNiven, Lindsey Defew and Nicola O'Keefle, Heriot-Watt University, May 12 - Jul 7, to conduct an assessment of Las Perlas Archipelago, Panama, at Naos.

Chris and Emily Darling, Royal Ontario Museum, Canada, May 12-22, to carry out preliminary studies of the pollination biology of Araceae, on BCI and Sherman.

Lisa Cowart and Jeff Hubbard, University of Florida, May 12 - Aug 8, to work with Kaoru Kitajima, on BCI and Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

May 9, 2003

Nature: Polarized light as a butterfly mating signal

STRI fellows Alison Sweeney from Duke University and Christopher Jiggins from the University of Edinburgh, and Sonke Johnson, Duke, report in *Nature* (May 1st) that females of *Heliconius* butterflies use the colorful, shimmering effect of their wings to attract males. This may be the first example of mate recognition based on polarized light.

Sweeney and her colleagues studied the iridescent *Heliconius cydno* butterfly from the in the tropical rainforests of Central and South America. The article was picked-up by *Science Update*, *CBC News*, *Science Daily*, *BBC*, etc.



Heliconius cydno

Los becarios de STRI Alison Sweeney de la Universidad de Duke, y Christopher Jiggins, de la Universidad de Edinburgh, y Sonke Johnson de Duke, reportan en *Nature* (Mayo 1ro) que hembras de mariposas *Heliconius* utilizan los brillantes efectos de sus alas para atraer machos. Este puede ser el primer ejemplo de reconocimiento de pareja basado en luz polarizada. Sweeney y sus colegas estudiaron la mariposa iridiscente *Heliconius cydno*, de los bosques lluviosos tropicales de Centro y Sur América. El artículo ha sido comentado por *Science Update*, *CBC News*, *Science Daily*, *BBC*, etc.

Hubbell elected member of the American Academy

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences announced the 2003 election of 187 fellows and 29 foreign honorary members, representing 29 American states and nine countries. Among the new fellows is STRI staff scientist Stephen P. Hubbell, founder and chairman of the National Council of Science and the Environment, and professor at the University of Georgia. Hubbell is author to more than 100 papers in tropical plant ecology, theoretical ecology, and plant-animal interactions. His book *The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography* (Princeton University Press, 2001) was described by Edward O. Wilson, as "the most extensive field research ever conducted in biology..." According to the Academy, this year's election maintains their practice of honoring intellectual achievement, leadership, and creativity in all fields and professions. Hubbell joins STRI colleagues Ira Rubinoff, Bill Eberhard, Jeremy Jackson, and Mary Jane West Eberhard, all members of the Academy.

La Academia de los Estados Unidos de Artes y Ciencias anunció la elección de 2003 de 187 miembros y 29 miembros extranjeros honorarios, que representan 29 estados americanos y nueve países. Entre los nuevos miembros está el científico de STRI Stephen P. Hubbell, fundador y síndico del Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Medio Ambiente de Estados Unidos, y profesor en la Universidad de Georgia. Hubbell es autor de más de 100 artículos en ecología de plantas tropicales, ecología teórica, e interacciones entre plantas y animales. Su libro, *The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography* [La teoría unificada neutral de biodiversidad y biogeografía] publicado por Princeton University Press en 2001, fue descrito por Edward O. Wilson, como la "investigación de campo más extensa que se ha llevado a cabo en biología..." De acuerdo a la Academia, la elección de este año mantuvo su práctica de honrar los logros intelectuales, el liderazgo y la creatividad en todos los campos y profesiones. Hubbell se une a sus colegas en STRI Ira Rubinoff, Bill Eberhard, Jeremy Jackson, y Mary Jane West Eberhard, todos miembros de la Academia.

More arrivals

Anurag Agrawal, University of Toronto, Canada, May 12 - 22, to study the ontogenetic aspects of ant-plant interaction, on BCI and Sherman.

Randall Moore, Auburn University, Alabama, May 13 - Aug 15, to study the role of dispersal ability in persistence of understory forest birds in Panamanian forest fragments, on BCNM.

Jason Watkins, University of Georgia, May 14 - Aug 14, to carry out an investigation of oomycete fungi believed to be involved in Janzen-Connell effects observed on BCI.

Mason Ryan, Southern Illinois University, May 14 - Aug 14, to study the population ecology of a neo tropical stream breeding frog *Eleutherodactylus punctariolus* at El Copé.

Karen Lips and Matt Whiles, Southern Illinois University, May 14 - Aug 15, to study host-pathogen biology and global decline of amphibians, in Fortuna and El Copé.

Nel Osborne, Southern Illinois University, May 14 - Aug 14, to conduct an experimental study on the clutch attendance behavior of *Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphyllum*, a neotropical glassfrog, at El Copé.

Eric Tepe, Raymond Sackenheim and Allan Bornstein, Miami University, Ohio, May 14 - Jun 7, to study the evolution of ant-plant mutualism in *Piper* subg. *Macrostachys*: Morphological and molecular evidence, in Fortuna and other places.

Collin receives Malacological Society of London's Annual Award

STRI marine biologist Rachel Collin won the Malacological Society of London's Annual Award 2002 for a distinguished initial contribution to Malacology with the Ph.D. dissertation "Evolution of mode of development in *Crepidula* (Gastropoda: Calyptraeidae): Causes and consequences" at the University of Chicago, and related work. The Malacological Society of London is dedicated to the advancement of education and research on molluscs. Their annual award, established in 1976, recognizes exceptionally promising studies of molluscs. An account of this work will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Bulletin of the Malacological Society of London*.

Rachel Collin, bióloga marina de STRI, ganó el premio anual de la Sociedad de Malacología de Londres, con la tesis doctoral "Evolución y modalidad de desarrollo en *Crepidula* (Gastropoda: Calyptraeidae): causas y consecuencias", en la Universidad de Chicago, y trabajos relacionados. La Sociedad de Malacología de Londres es una organización dedicada a la promoción de la educación e investigación de moluscos. Su premio anual, establecido en 1976, reconoce estudios excepcionalmente prometedores sobre moluscos. Una descripción de este trabajo se publicará en la próxima edición de *Bulletin of the Malacological Society of London*.



Deputy director Eldredge Bermingham joined secretaries and administrative assistants for a lunch at the Tupper Conference Center, to celebrate International Administrative Professionals Week/Day, on Tuesday, April 29. In the photo are Ana Luisa De la Espada, Maritza Perurena and Bermingham.

El subdirector Eldredge Bermingham se unió a secretarías y asistentes administrativas para un almuerzo en el Centro de Conferencias Tupper, para celebrar el Día/Semana Internacional de los Profesionales Administrativos, el martes, 29 de abril. En la foto aparecen Ana Luisa De la Espada, Maritza Perurena y Bermingham.

More arrivals

Rachel Spigler, University of Georgia, May 14 - Jul 27, to study the reproductive consequences of rarity in tropical plant populations, on BCI.

Robert Srygley, STRI senior postdoctoral fellow, May 15 - Aug 31, to study locomotor mimicry in passion-vine butterflies and magnetic compass orientation in migratory insects, on BCI and Gamboa.

Sebastian Troeng, Caribbean Conservation Corporation, May 15 - Dec 31, to work with Anne Meylan on Bocas.

José Iriarte, Mellon postdoctoral fellow from the University of Kentucky, May 15 - May 15, 2004, to conduct preliminary studies about the origins of maize in the Balsas region, at the CTPA.

Kathrin Lampert, University of Texas, Austin, May 16 - Oct 14, to study the genetic patterns in Túngara frog.

Michiel Dijkstra and Patrizia D'Ettorre, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, May 16 - Jun 6, to work with Jacobus Boomsma, in Gamboa.

Three professors and 16 students from Michigan State University, May 18 - 26, to participate in a conservation field course on BCI, Gamboa and Bocas.

Miscellaneous

For rent: duplex at Albrook, two bedrooms, 1bath, partially furnished. \$575. Interested call Chimene Longwater at 276-6621 or cel. 616-8552.

Spring 2003

CTFS research grant recipients

The CTFS Research Grants Program recently completed its second round of award announcements in April 2003. During this grant cycle, CTFS received 39 grant proposals, ten more than were submitted last Fall during the first round. Proposals were submitted from around the world, including from scientists in Cameroon, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, India, Malaysia, Panama, United Kingdom, and the United States. The eleven funded Principal Investigators included one masters student, two doctoral candidates, three post-doctoral associates, and five senior scientists. The next deadline for applications is August 29, 2003. For more information please visit: www.ctfs.si.edu

Research proposal title	Study site	Principal investigator	Status	Nationality
Reconstructing historical disturbance regimes and forest stand dynamics in the forest mosaic of the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, western Thailand	HKK, Thailand	Patrick Baker	Post Doc	USA
Comparative Community-wide Studies of Forest Reproduction and Pollinators in Old and New World Tropical Forests	BCI, Panama; Yasuni, Ecuador; Khao Chong, Thailand; Pasoh, Malaysia; Lambir, Malaysia	Rhett Harrison	Post Doc	UK
Seedling Dynamics in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador	Yasuni, Ecuador	Margaret Rowan Metz	Ph.D. student	USA
Linking Seedling Drought Resistance with Species Habitat Associations: Dry Season Mortality	BCI, Panama	Bettina Engelbrecht and Liza Comita	Professional	German
Preliminary Study to Evaluate the Arboreal Species Composition, Abundance and Diversity in the Panamanian Forests	Panama	Rolando Perez, Salomon Aguilar and Jose Deago	Professional	Panama
Pollen dispersal limitation in tropical rainforests: A comparative study in BCI and Yasuni	BCI, Panama; Yasuni, Ecuador	Christopher Dick, Frederic Austerlitz and Eldredge Bermingham	Post Doc	USA
Investigation of oomycete fungi believed to be involved in Janzen-Connell effects observed on Barro Colorado Island, Panama	BCI, Panama	Jason Watkins	Ph.D. Student	USA
Herbaceous and Epiphytic Flora of the Korup Forest Dynamics Plot in Cameroon	Korup, Cameroon	Louis Zapfack, Gaston Achoundong and Bernard Aloys Nkongmeneck	Professional	Cameroon
The <i>Brownea grandiceps</i> species complex used to study modes of speciation in understory rain forest trees	Yasuni, Ecuador; Venezuela	Gorky Villa Munoz	Masters Student	Ecuador
A Mechanistic Understanding of the Responses of Soil Carbon Pools in Tropical Forests to Increasing Global Temperatures	BCI, Panama; Yasuni, Ecuador; HKK, Thailand; Khao Chong, Thailand	Jennifer S. Powers	Professional	USA
Comparison of fruit characteristics, dispersal syndromes and seed dispersal in lowland rain forests of the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	India; Sinharaja, Sri Lanka	Priya Davidar, I.A.U.N. & C.V.S. Gunatilleke	Professional; Fellow	India