

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, Jun 3, noon seminar speaker will be David Porter, University of Georgia  
**Zoosporic fungal diseases of frogs and sea grasses**

## Bambi seminar

Thursday, Jun 5, Bambi seminar speaker will be Alex Barron, Princeton University  
**Nitrogen fixation in the Neotropics: Ecosystem patterns and plant strategy**

## Arrivals

Robert Dudley, University of California at Berkeley, May 28 - Jun 30, to work on the project: Do migrating butterflies use a magnetic compass to orient? on BCI.

Kaoru Kitajima, University of Florida, May 28 - Jun 30, to study functional bases for the trade-off between growth and survival of tree seedlings, on BCI and Gamboa.

Robert Reynolds, Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, May 31 - Jun 4, to work on canopy fungi, on Bocas del Toro.

Greg Adler and Alejandra Carvajal, University of Wisconsin, Jun 1 - Jul 31, to conduct a survey of rodents in Panama, in Gamboa and Fortuna.

Ondi Crino, intern from Lewis & Clark College, OR, Jun 1 - Aug 21, to work on female Túngara Frog Project, in Gamboa.

Hermógenes Fernández, predoctoral fellow from the University of Puerto Rico, Jun 1 - Nov 30, to study *Attine* nest foundation, in Gamboa.

Rachel Gallery, University of Illinois, Jun 1 - Sep 1, to work with Jim Dalling, on BCI.



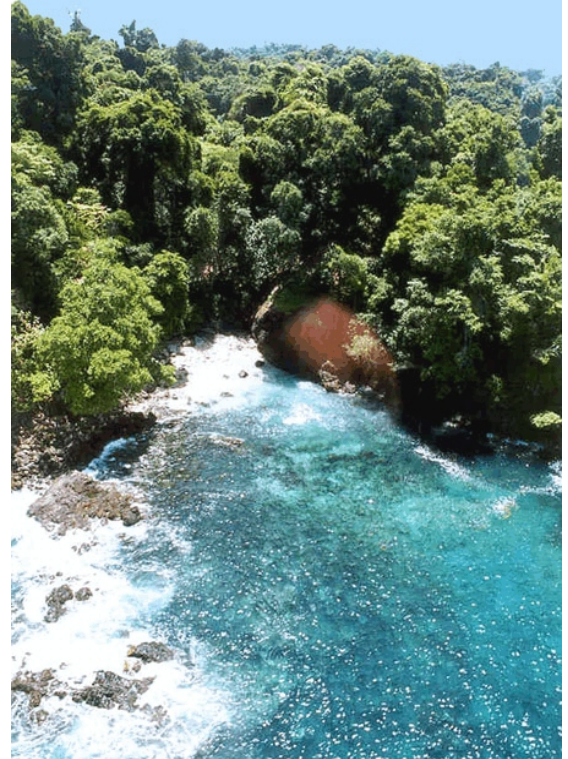
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

May 30, 2003

## Guzmán unveils 1700 hectares of coral growth in Coiba

Contrary to the traditional thought that Coiba, (located in the Gulf of Chiriquí, on the Pacific side of Panamá) was home to 160 hectares of coral reefs at Ensenada María reef (second largest coral reef in the tropical east Pacific and the largest in the Central American region) Coiba houses about 1700 hectares of coral reefs and coral communities, reports STRI staff scientist Héctor Guzmán, based on analysis of satellite images and *in situ* observations. This information, which is part of a technical report to be released soon and sponsored by AVINA, was unveiled during a TV interview by Channel 13, on Monday, May 26. STRI researchers Héctor Guzmán, Stanley Heckadon and Todd Capson were consulted on their expertise by local television, when the government of Panamá is discussing the legislation for managing Coiba Island. Recently, STRI assisted ANAM (Panamanian authority for the environment) to submit an application to add Coiba National Park to the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Last year, Conservation International awarded Capson a grant to coordinate a project with ANAM to help prevent illegal fishing in this 2,700km<sup>2</sup> marine park. Guzmán was also interviewed for an educational program by Channel 11 on Wednesday, May 28, and has been invited with Capson by Radio Nacional.



Contrario a la noción de que Coiba (isla localizada en el Golfo de Chiriquí, del lado Pacífico de Panamá) contaba con 160 hectáreas de arrecifes coralinos en Ensenada María (segundo en extensión en el Pacífico oriental tropical y el más extenso en el área centroamericana) Coiba alberga cerca de 1700 hectáreas de arrecifes coralinos y comunidades de coral, reporta el científico de STRI Héctor Guzmán, basado en imágenes de satélite y observaciones *in situ*. Esta información, parte de un informe técnico financiado por AVINA que será distribuido próximamente, fué revelada durante una entrevista televisada de Canal 13, el lunes, 26 de mayo. Los investigadores Héctor Guzmán, Stanley Heckadon y Todd Capson, fueron consultados sobre sus especialidades por Canal 13, en el momento en que el gobierno panameño discute la legislación para administrar la Isla de Coiba. Recientemente, STRI apoyó a ANAM a presentar una solicitud para incluir al Parque Nacional de Coiba a la lista de sitios de Patrimonio Mundial de UNESCO. El año pasado, Conservation International otorgó a Todd Capson fondos para coordinar un proyecto con ANAM, para proteger a este parque marino de 2,700km<sup>2</sup>, de la pesca ilegal. Guzmán fue entrevistado nuevamente el miércoles 28 de mayo en un programa educativo de Canal 11, y ha sido invitado por Radio Nacional junto con Capson.

## More arrivals

Tanja Hawley, intern from the University of Florida, Jun 1 - Ago 30, to conduct an Anuran baseline biodiversity study at the EcoForest site in the Canal area, in Las Pavas.

David Hibbett, Zheng Wang and Manfred Binder, Clark University, MA, Jun 1 -30, to study phylogenetic relationships of cyphelloid and marine homobasidiomycetes, on BCI, Bocas del Toro and Fortuna.

David Matlaga, University of Miami, Jun 1 - Jul 31, to study the effect of time since disturbance on sexual and asexual reproduction in a liana, on BCI.

Hector Merchan, intern from Universidad de Los Andes, Jun 1 - Jul 31, to study measuring mimetic selection as a source of post-mating reproductive isolation.

Heather Peckman, Yale University, Jun 1 - Dec 15, to study the rehabilitation of dry tropical forest ecosystems in western Panama, in Los Santos.

Michael Ryan, University of Texas at Austin, Jun 1-25, to study female choice in Túngara frogs, in Gamboa.

Carolina Ulloa, intern from Universidad de Los Andes, Jun 1 - Ago 21, to work on female Túngara frog project, in Gamboa.

Charles Darveau, University of British Columbia, Canada, Jun 2 - 30, to work with Raúl Suárez, on BCI.

Anne Meylan, Florida Marine Research Institute, Jun 2-26, to study the ecology and migrations of marine turtles of Bocas del Toro province, Panama, at Bocas.



## Largest mushroom ever collected in Panama

Markela and Feliciano Ballesteros donated this huge poliporal mushroom to STRI's Herbarium after they found it on the road, on their way to Soná, Veraguas. Research assistant Mabelle Chong de Cabrera (in the photo), microbiologist graduated from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León working with STRI scientist Noris Salazar-Allen, is doing the necessary arrangements to send a sample of this individual to a Costa Rican specialist, in order to have it identified. There are about 1.5 million fungi around the world, from which only about 100,000 have been scientifically described. From the 667 fungi species ever registered in Panama, this is probably the largest ever found.

Markela y Feliciano Ballesteros donaron este enorme hongo al Herbario de STRI, luego de haberlo encontrado en la carretera camino a Soná, Veraguas. La asistente de investigación Mabelle Chong de Cabrera, microbióloga egresada de la Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León quien trabaja actualmente con la científica de STRI Noris Salazar-Allen, está haciendo los arreglos necesarios para enviar una muestra de este individuo a una especialista en Costa Rica, para que sea identificado. En el mundo hay cerca de 1.5 millones de hongos, de los cuales solamente han sido descritos científicamente cerca de 100,000. De las 667 especies de hongos que se han registrado en Panamá, este es probablemente el de mayor tamaño.

## CTFS to Peninsular Thailand



Stuart Davies, from STRI's Center for Tropical Forest Science-Arnold Arboretum Asia Program (CTFS-AA Asia Program) and David Middleton (Harvard) were awarded a 3-year NSF grant for a study of the botanical diversity and biogeography of Peninsular Thailand, the most botanically and geographically diverse part of the country. The

CTFS-AA Asia program has recently established a 24-hectare Forest Dynamics Plot at Khao Chong Peninsula. This new study will help provide a biogeographic context for the plot.

## More arrivals

Nancy Robbins, intern from the University of Rutgers, Jun 2-28, to conduct molecular studies of pant fungal symbiosis, at Naos.

Terra Theim, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Jun 2 - Jul 20, to study gene flow and genetic differentiation in *Psychotria*, on BCI and Gamboa.

Paola Godoy, University of Wisconsin, Jun 3-30, to work with Greg Adler, at Gamboa and Fortuna.

Brett Wolfe, University of Illinois, Jun 3 - Aug 19, to work with Paolo Segre, on BCI.

Kyle Harms and Jessica Eberhard, Louisiana State University, Jun 4-20, to study the joint influences of climate, litter quality, and soil fauna in regulating the decomposition of leaf and root litter: A pan-tropical study, on BCI and Metropolitan Natural Park.

Bradley Kennedy, Princeton University, Jun 2 - Jul 11, to work with Alexander Barron, on BCI and Sherman.

Roberto Brenes, Scott Connelly, Catherine Pringle, Robert Stakkard, Hillary Hamann and Nancy Hoolst-Pullen, Jun 6 - Ago 1, to attend BCI Soil Workshop.

## Departures

John Christy, Jun 1-6, to Williamsburg, VA, to attend the Crustacean Society 2003 Summer meeting.

William F. Laurance, Jun 3-7, to Manaus, Brazil, to continue research on the Amazonian forest project.

## STRI June birthdays

Plonio Gondola	
Nereida Hernandez	2
Argelis Ruiz	2
Erika Garibaldo	2
Rolando Perez	4
Rigoberto Gonzalez	7
Gabriel Abrego	7
Klaus Winter	10

Marla E. Ramos	12
Maritza Lopez	12
Maritza Perurena	15
Aureliano Valencia	16
Omar Sousa	16
Norma Cedeño	16
James La Frankie	17
Milton Jackson	19

Alberto Gonzalez	23
Marlene Flores	23
Juan Murillo	24
Miguel Samaniego	27
Carmen Galdames	27
José Barahona	27
Eleuterio Santos	29