

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, October 12, noon seminar speaker will be Dave Carlon, University of Hawaii, Manoa

Speciation across environmental gradients in reef corals; Synthesizing genetic patterns with ecological processes

Bambi seminar

Thursday, October 14, Bambi seminar speaker will be Richard Condit, STRI
Stability of tree communities: observations of population change in CTFS plots

Arrivals

Twelve students from the School of International Training (SIT), Oct 9-13, to participate in a Tropical Marine Ecology course from STRI's Bocas Research Station. The course will be given by STRI's marine research associate Juan Maté.

Jeremy B.C. Jackson, STRI and Scripps, Oct 10-20, to continue research in Panama, at the CTPA.

Omar López, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Oct 12-26, to study the interaction of light and soil moisture availability in the photo synthetic performance of tropical tree seedlings: implications for seedling growth and survival in seasonal tropical forests, on BCI.

Departures

William F. Laurance and family, Oct 9 - Nov 27, on vacation, to Australia.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

October 8, 2004

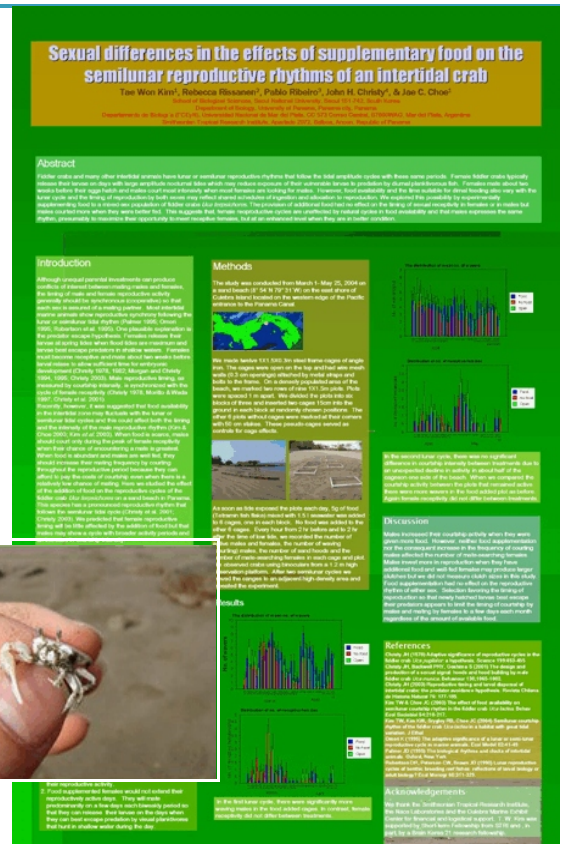
STRI poster wins at Korea

The poster “Sexual differences in the effects of supplementary food on the semilunar reproductive rhythms of an intertidal crab” by Tae Won Kim and Jae C. Choe from Seoul National University, STRI's marine biologist John Christy, Rebecca Rissanen from the University of Panama and Pablo Ribeiro, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata was awarded as “outstanding poster” in the Ecology section supported by the Zoological Society of Korea, one of the nine organizations that support the annual meetings of the Korean Association of Biological Sciences this year. The poster is based on research done at Punta



Culebra where STRI operates its Marine Exhibits Center. The study showed that semilunar variation in the availability of food does not cause the distinctive semilunar reproductive cycles of this species. Crabs given excess and natural amounts of food courted and mated at the same time. However, as was expected, well-fed males spent more time courting by waving their single, greatly enlarged claw. This appendage constitutes about 30% of the weight of an adult (up to 50% in other fiddler crab species) and is proportionately one of the largest sexual signals of all animals.

El afiche “Diferencias sexuales en los efectos de alimentación suplementaria en los ritmos reproductivos semilunares de un cangrejo litoral” de Tae Won Kim y Jae C. Choe de la Universidad Nacional de Seúl, el biólogo marino John Christy de STRI, Rebecca Rissanen de la Universidad de Panamá y Pablo Ribeiro, de la Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, fue premiado como “afiche sobresaliente” en la sección de Ecología que patrocina la Sociedad Zoológica de Corea, una de las nueve organizaciones que patrocinan el congreso anual de la Asociación Coreana de Ciencias Biológicas. El afiche se basa en investigaciones llevadas a cabo en Punta Culebra, donde STRI opera su Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas. El estudio muestra que la variación semilunar en la disponibilidad de alimentos no causa los ciclos distintivos de reproducción semilunar en estas especies. Cangrejos provistos de cantidades excesivas y naturales de alimentos cortejaron y copularon al mismo tiempo. Sin embargo, tal y como se esperaba, los machos bien alimentados invirtieron más tiempo en el cortejo moviendo su muy agrandada tenaza. Este apéndice constituye cerca del 30% del peso de un adulto (hasta 50% en otras especies de cangrejos violinistas) y es, proporcionalmente una de las características sexuales más grandes de todos los animales.



More departures

Robert Stallard, Oct 9-15, to Boulder, Colorado, to attend a training course for an analytical instrument.

Noris Salazar, Oct 9-25, to Costa Rica, to attend a workshop on lichens at the Estación Las Cruces.

Allen Herre, Oct 12-16, to New Jersey, to consult with colleagues at Rutgers University, and to attend the World Cacao Foundation meetings in Washington DC.

Congratulations!

To Marie Massa (STRI DC) and Joseph Prichard, for their marriage on August 29th.

New publications

Dudley, Robert. 2004. "Ethanol, fruit ripening, and the historical origins of human alcoholism in primate frugivory." *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 44(4): 315-323.

Lindner, Alberto, Cairns, Stephen D., and Guzman, Hector M. 2004. "*Distichopora robusta* sp. nov., the first shallow-water stylasterid (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa: Stylasteridae) from the tropical eastern Pacific." *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 84(6): 943-947.

Maté, Juan L., and D'Croz, Luis. 2004. "Arrecifes de coral en la República de Panamá". In Comisión Universitaria del Centenario de la República (Ed.), *Panamá: Cien Años de República*: 465-475. Panamá: MANFER, S.A.

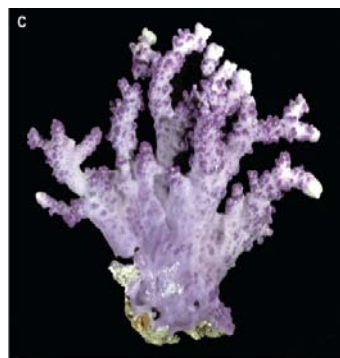
Panamanian legislators visit STRI



Fourteen members of the National Assembly led by the presidents of the Panama Canal Affairs and Foreign Relations commissions Tomás Gabriel Altamirano-Duque and Elías Castillo respectively, visited STRI's headquarters on Tuesday, October 5, in response to an invitation from STRI. They were offered the new presentation *Desarrollo nacional, riqueza natural: Panamá* [National development, natural richness: Panama], by Elena Lombardo from the Office of External Affairs, and were briefed by Stanley Heckadon on STRI history and public programs. Vielka Chang-Yau hosted them at the Tropical Sciences Library, highlighting this collection as an important source of information for decision making regarding natural resources in the country. This visit was part of a special effort from STRI to reach the recently elected authorities. In the photo (from the left) Alejandro Arze, Vielka Chang-Yau and Elena Lombardo, STRI, followed by Elizabeth Cedeño, Alejandrino Jiménez, legislators Milciades Concepción and Altamirano-Duque, and Jorge Batista and Orlando Gironi, members of the National Assembly.

Catorce miembros de la Asamblea Nacional liderada por los presidentes de las Comisiones de Asuntos del Canal y Relaciones Exteriores, Tomás Altamirano Mantovani y Elías Castillo, respectivamente, visitaron las oficinas principales de STRI el martes, 5 de octubre, en respuesta a una invitación de STRI. Elena Lombardo, de la Oficina de Asuntos Externos les ofreció la nueva presentación *Desarrollo Nacional, Riqueza Natural: Panamá*, y Stanley Heckadon les dió pantallazo sobre la historia de STRI y sus programas públicos. Vielka Chang-Yau los recibió en la Biblioteca de Ciencias Tropicales, destacando su colección como una importante fuente para la toma de decisiones sobre los recursos naturales del país. Esta visita fue parte de un esfuerzo especial de STRI, para llegar a las autoridades recién electas. En la foto (desde la izquierda) aparecen Alejandro Arze, Vielka Chang-Yau y Elena Lombardo, seguidos por Elizabeth Cedeño, Alejandrino Jiménez, los legisladores Milciades Concepción y Altamirano-Duque, y Jorge Batista y Orlando Gironi, miembros de la Asamblea Nacional Legislativa.

New species of coral only found in Coiba



In an article published in the *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* (see citation in "New publications") Alberto Lindner from Duke University, Stephen D. Cairns, SI's National Museum of Natural History and STRI's Hector M. Guzman describe a new species *Distichopora robusta*, the first tropical shallow-water stylasterid coral from the eastern Pacific. Collected off the coast of Panama, this new species has robust branches and lacks well-developed pore rows, the latter feature traditionally considered as the most important diagnostic characteristic of *Distichopora*. Colonies of this purple hydrocoral were collected at depths of 5 to 25m on the south side of Isla Jicarita, Gulf of Chiriqui, western coast of Panama.

More publications

Milton, Katharine. 2004. "Ferment in the family tree: Does a frugivorous dietary heritage influence contemporary patterns of human ethanol use?" *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 44(5): 304-314.

Security procedures

Reminder to all with access to STRI facilities in Panama:

- When you enter a STRI facility with your access ID, do not allow unknown people to enter the building if they are not wearing a STRI ID. Report the incident to Security personnel. If you need backup, call the security gate.
- You must wear your ID at all times in a visible manner. Do not lend your ID to anyone. This is not a transferable document.
- If you see someone without an ID, ask what can you do for him/her and try to find out if the person has a reason to be in the facility. If you prefer not to interact with the unknown person, you must report it immediately giving the best possible description.
- When you leave your office, even for a short period of time, you must lock it. If you work with people that disobey these instructions, please talk to your supervisor. You are responsible for your valuables and you must look after the STRI equipment assign to you.
- Administrative sanctions will be used for those who disregard security regulations.

Important phone numbers:
Security gate Tupper/Tivoli
8211 • 8353
Security Office Tupper
/Tivoli 8025 • 8035 • 8163
Gamewarden leader (BCI)
8947
You can call the operator
dialing "0" at all facilities.

En artículo publicado en la revista *Journal of the Marine Association of the United Kingdom* (ver cita en "New publications"), Alberto Lindner de Duke University, Stephen D. Cairns, del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de SI, y Héctor M. Guzmán de STRI, describen la especie nueva *Distichopora robusta*, el primer coral tropical de la Orden Stylasterina (pariente de los corales de fuego) de aguas someras encontrado en el Pacífico oriental. Colectado en aguas de la costa panameña, esta nueva especie tiene ramas robustas y carece de filas bien desarrolladas de poros, siendo esta última característica la que se considera tradicionalmente más importante para identificar a las *Distichopora*. Colonias de este hidrocoral púrpura fueron encontradas al sur de Isla Jicarita en el Golfo de Chiriquí, costa occidental de Panamá.



STRI visits Liquid Jungle Lab

STRI officials and scientists D. Ross Robertson (first from the left), Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Mercedes Denis (center), George Angehr, Haris Lessios and deputy director Eldredge Bermingham (far

right) visited the facilities of the Liquid Jungle Lab (LJL) on Bahia Honda, from September 27-29. LJL, part of a 3500 hectares reserve which includes primary forest, mangrove forest, and secondary forest in different stages of regeneration, is located off the Pacific coast of the Veraguas province of Panama, approximately 250 km from Panama City. STRI, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid signed agreements for scientific collaboration with LJL in 2002, in order to use their facilities for research projects in the area. The Liquid Jungle Lab seeks to merge traditional scientific research with high technology to improve the life of all species on our planet. Scientists from around the world are invited to work in this jungle lab which is privately owned and operated by a foundation. STRI has provided information to LJL for the acquisition of scientific equipment and administration, and has sent scientists such as those pictured here to develop an informed appreciation of the marine and terrestrial research opportunities offered by LJL. For more information visit: <http://www.liquidjunglelab.com>

Funcionarios y científicos de STRI, D. Ross Robertson (primero de izquierda a derecha), Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Mercedes Denis (centro), George Angehr, Haris Lessios y el subdirector Eldredge Bermingham (esquina derecha) visitaron las instalaciones del Liquid Jungle Lab (LJL, o Laboratorio Líquido Selvático) en Bahía Honda, del 27 al 29 de septiembre. El LJL, parte de una reserva de 3500 hectáreas de bosque primario, manglares y parches de bosque secundario en diferentes grados de regeneración, está localizado cerca de la costa de Veraguas, aproximadamente a 250 km de la ciudad de Panamá. STRI, la Institución Oceanográfica de Woods Hole y el Jardín Botánico Real de Madrid firmaron acuerdos de colaboración científica con LJL en 2002, con la intención de usar sus instalaciones para proyectos de investigación en el área. El Liquid Jungle Lab tiene como objetivo unificar investigaciones científicas tradicionales con alta tecnología, para mejorar la vida de todas las especies en nuestro planeta. Científicos alrededor del mundo han sido invitados a trabajar en este laboratorio selvático, el cual es una propiedad privada operada por una fundación. STRI ha proporcionado información sobre administración y adquisición de equipo científico para sus instalaciones y ha enviado científicos como los que aparecen en la foto, para obtener una apreciación informada sobre las oportunidades de investigación marina y terrestre que ofrece el LJL. Mayor información en <http://www.liquidjunglelab.com>