

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, September 16, noon seminar speaker will be Egbert G. Leigh, Jr., STRI
The honesty of meiosis and the common interest of the genome

Bambi seminar

Thursday, September 18, Bambi seminar speaker will be Ricardo Racines, STRI
BCI Gamewards and their role in protecting the Barro Colorado Nature Monument

Arrivals

Stefan Klose, University of Ulm, Germany, Sep 15 - Dec 1, to work with Elisabeth Kalko with bat research, on BCI.

Stephen Vollmer, predoctoral visiting scientist from Harvard University, Sep 16 - Oct 8, to work on the project: "Establishing population connections in the Caribbean Acropora: contrasting native structure with an introgression signature", on Bocas del Toro.

Jacopo Monzini, Brandeis University, Maryland, Sep 19 - Mar 18, 2004, to study the sharks of Panama: assessing the stocks of Bahia Las Minas and creating a database for a local exhibit, at Galeta.

Departures

Rachel Collin, Sep 15-25, to visit SI Marine Laboratory at Ft. Pierce, FL.

Ira Rubinoff, Sep 16-27, to Washington DC, on official business, and to attend the SI Strategic Planning Meetings. Will also travel to Cambridge, MA, to visit Harvard University.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

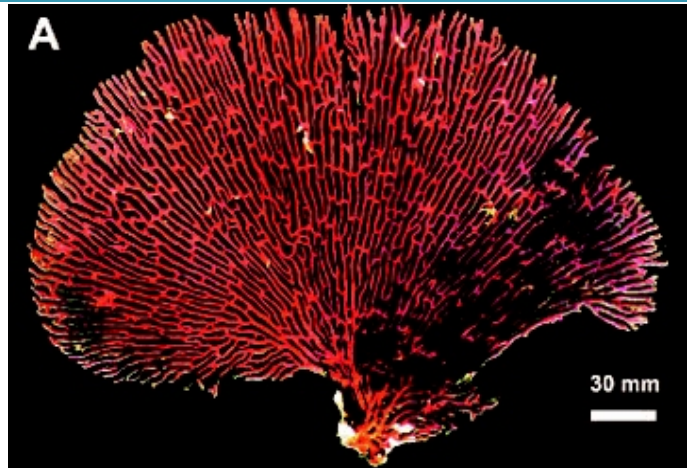
www.stri.org

September 12, 2003

Nine new species of octocorals

Coral reefs are home to many coastal species, vital for the consumption of larger species, including man. These species depend on the health, integrity, and diversity of coral reefs. To protect ourselves from their decay and ultimate disappearance, scientists Odalisca Breedy from the University of Costa Rica and STRI marine biologist Héctor M. Guzmán, study species composition and geographic distribution of coral reefs in the area.

This past week, Breedy and Guzmán published a 60-page scientific paper in *Zootaxa* (281: 1-60), with results from an unprecedented survey in the shallow Pacific seas off Costa Rica, to study species of the genus *Pacifigorgia*. The authors present identifications, descriptions and detailed color illustrations for four known species and nine new species, unknown to science. The new gorgonian octocorals are: *Pacifigorgia cairnsi* (named after Stephen Cairns, NMNH, in recognition for his encouragement during the course of the project); *Pacifigorgia curta*, *Pacifigorgia firma*, *Pacifigorgia flavimaculata*, *Pacifigorgia lacerata*, *Pacifigorgia rubicunda*, *Pacifigorgia samarensis*, *Pacifigorgia senta*, and *Pacifigorgia tupperi*. Breedy and Guzmán named *P. tupperi* after Mark Tupper, in recognition to his interest and valuable collaboration in the development of marine science in the tropics. (.pdf version available at calderom@tivoli.si.edu).



Los arrecifes coralinos albergan muchas especies costeras, que son vitales para la alimentación de especies de mayor tamaño, incluyendo el hombre. Estas especies dependen de la salud, integridad y diversidad de los arrecifes. Para protegernos de su deterioro y desaparición, los científicos Odalisca Breedy de la Universidad de Costa Rica, y el biólogo marino de STRI Héctor M. Guzmán, estudian la composición de especies y distribución geográfica de los arrecifes coralinos del área. La semana pasada, Breedy y Guzmán publicaron un artículo científico de 60 páginas en *Zootaxa* (281: 1-60) con los resultados de un estudio sin precedentes en aguas someras del Pacífico de Costa Rica, para



estudiar el género *Pacifigorgia*. Los autores presentan identificaciones, descripciones e ilustraciones detalladas a todo color de cuatro especies conocidas, y nueve especies desconocidas para la ciencia. Los nuevos corales gorgónidos son *Pacifigorgia cairnsi* (bautizado en honor de Stephen Cairns, NMNH, en reconocimiento por su apoyo durante el proyecto); *Pacifigorgia curta*, *Pacifigorgia firma*, *Pacifigorgia flavimaculata*, *Pacifigorgia lacerata*, *Pacifigorgia rubicunda*, *Pacifigorgia samarensis*, *Pacifigorgia senta*, y *Pacifigorgia tupperi* (Breedy y Guzmán bautizaron esta especie en honor de Mark Tupper, por su interés y valiosa colaboración al desarrollo de la biología marina en los trópicos).

More departures

Eldredge Bermingham (Sep 16-24), John Christy (Sep 16-20), Jeremy B.C. Jackson (Sep 16-19) and Fernando Santos Granero (Sep 15-20) to Washington DC, to attend SI Strategic Planning meetings.

Beth King, OCAPP, Sep 16-21, to Washington DC, to attend workshop at SI.

Hector Guzman, Sep 16-27, to Sevilla, Spain, to consult with colleagues at the Universidad de Sevilla, and to do reference research at the General Archives of the Indies.

Olga f. Linares, Sep 18 - Oct 6, to Yereven, Armenia, to attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees of IPGRI. Following meetings will take a short vacation in Ireland.

Publications

Breedy, Odalisca, and Guzman, Hector M. 2003. "Octocorals from Costa Rica: The genus *Pacificorgia* (Coelenterata: Octocorallia: Gorgoniidae)." *Zootaxa* 281:160.

Muller-Landau, Helene C., Levin, Simon A., and Keymera, Juan E. 2003. "Theoretical perspectives on evolution of long-distance dispersal and the example of specialized pests." *Ecology* 84(8): 1957-1967.

O'Dea, Aaron. 2003. "Seasonality and zooid size variation in Panamanian encrusting bryozoans." *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* 83: 1107-1108.

STRI on TV

RTVE will feature Culebra in "Ecología al Día": Sep 13, 2pm & Sep 14, 4:15 pm.

RTVE mostrará a Culebra en "Ecología al Día": 13 de sep 2pm y 14 de sep, 4:15pm.



STRI signs agreement with Tunghai University

Director Ira Rubinoff and CTFS director Elizabeth Losos signed a memorandum of understanding with Tunghai University president Wan Kang-Pei from Taiwan, Republic of China, on Friday, September 5. Both institutions agreed to work together to advance a joint program of long-term research on the ecology and management of tropical forests within a global network of research sites affiliated with STRI's Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS).

El director, Ira Rubinoff, la directora del CTFS, Elizabeth Losos, y el presidente de la Universidad de Tunghai de Taiwan, República de China, firmaron un convenio de colaboración científica, el viernes, 5 de septiembre. Ambas instituciones se comprometieron a trabajar juntas para llevar a cabo un programa de investigación conjunto sobre ecología y manejo de bosques tropicales, dentro de la red de sitios de investigación asociados al Centro de Ciencias Forestales del Trópico de STRI.

Marine Oversight Committee

Director Ira Rubinoff announced the creation of STRI's Marine Oversight Committee (MOC) that will be chaired by scientist Haris Lessios. The MOC will be responsible for the administration and budget of STRI's marine program, and will establish marine science policy as well as chart the intellectual direction of marine research at STRI in coordination with the Director's office. Other members of the MOC are marine biologists Rachel Collin, Ross Robertson, Héctor Guzmán, Naos administrator Mercedes Denis as special assistant to the Committee.

El director Ira Rubinoff anunció la creación del Comité de Supervisión Marina de STRI (MOC, por sus siglas en inglés), bajo la dirección del científico Haris Lessios. El MOC será responsable por la administración y el presupuesto del programa marino de STRI, establecerá las políticas de las ciencias marinas, y orientará la dirección intelectual de las investigaciones marinas en STRI, con la Oficina del Director. Otros miembros del MOC son los biólogos Rachel Collin, D. Ross Robertson, Héctor Guzmán, y la administradora de Naos Mercedes Denis, asistente especial del Comité.

More publications

Sanjur Fonseca, Oris Imperio, Carmona, José A., and Doadrio, Ignacio. 2003. "Evolutionary and biogeographical patterns within Iberian populations of the genus *Squalius* inferred from molecular data." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 29(1): 20-30.

Takeda, Satoshi, and Murai, Minoru. 2003. "Morphological and behavioural adaptations to the rocky substrate by the fiddler crab *Uca panamensis* (Stimpson, 1859): preference for feeding substratum and feeding mechanism." *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 287(2): 179-191.

Warren, Ben H., Bermingham, Eldredge P., Bowied, Rauri C., Prys-Jones, Robert P., and Thebaude, Christophe. 2003. "Molecular phylogeography reveals island colonization history and diversification of western Indian Ocean sunbirds (Nectarinia: Nectariniidae)." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 29(1): 67-85.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Pick-up Chevrolet S-10 1997, 57,000 Km. Excellent conditions. \$3,500. Interested call Juan Carlos Ricaurte: Cel. 647-0846, E-mail: ricaurtej@naos.si.edu

For sale: duplex at Colinas del Golf, excellent conditions, terrace, garden area, 3 b/room, 3bath, great price. Call Juan Dutari at: 631-6097, 217-1681, 217-6606

For sale: Evenflo car sit for children. Excellent conditions, \$75. Please contact Cecilia Mañosa at manosac@ancon.si.edu