

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, December 5, noon seminar speaker will be Denise Pope, STRI postdoctoral fellow

Why do fiddler crabs have their claws

Darwin suggested that exaggerated male traits and displays evolve because they convey an advantage in the competition for mates, either in fighting and threatening other males or in attracting and courting females. While most research in sexual selection concentrates on one or the other of these functions, there is growing recognition that many sexually dimorphic traits are signals that both deter rivals and attract mates. The waving display performed by male fiddler crabs (genus *Uca*) with their enlarged claw is one such potentially dual function signal. In this talk I will explore how the two functions of this display interact in selected species, and how the display has evolved across the genus.

Bambi seminar

Thursday, December 7, Bambi seminar speaker will be Tom Kursar, University of Utah and STRI

Combining conservation and bioprospecting: the Panamanian ICBG project

Arrivals

Melvin Tyree, University of Vermont, Dec 4-11, to work on the integration of canopy and hydraulic architecture in *Psychotria* species along light and moisture gradients, on BCL.

John Skillman, California State University, Dec 7-11, to conduct research of ecophysiology of tropical forest plants.

STRI news 2000



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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December 1, 2000

Carmen Sucre to retire

Human Resources specialist Carmen Sucre retired from STRI on Thursday, November 30, after 28 years of service. Carmen started working for STRI in 1965 working as secretary and accountant. She left STRI in 1972 to take care of her small children, and returned in 1979 as budget assistant. In 1986 Carmen was appointed STRI's Personnel specialist. Coworkers bid Carmen farewell in an informal surprise event during which Ira Rubinoff



(Photo: Marcos A. Guerra)

emphasized Carmen's loyalty to STRI, her sensitivity to handle problems, and her proven discretion. In the photo, Gloria Maggiori and Mercedes Arroyo with Carmen and director Ira Rubinoff. After retirement, Carmen is planning to devote time to her grandson, her garden and handiwork. We wish Carmen all the best!

Carmen Sucre, especialista en la Oficina de Recursos Humanos, se acogió a su jubilación el jueves 30 de noviembre, después de 28 años de servicio. Carmen empezó a trabajar en STRI en 1965, como secretaria y contable. Dejó STRI en 1972 para atender a sus hijos que estaban pequeños, y regresó a STRI en 1979 como asistente de presupuesto. En 1986 Carmen aceptó la posición de directora de Personal de STRI. Como despedida, sus compañeros le hicieron una fiesta sorpresa informal, donde Ira Rubinoff enfatizó la lealtad de Carmen a STRI, su sensibilidad para manejar los problemas, y su probada discreción. En la foto, Gloria Maggiori y Mercedes Arroyo junto con Carmen y Ira Rubinoff. Al jubilarse, Carmen planea dedicar mucho tiempo con su nieto de dos años, su jardín y manualidades. Le deseamos una feliz jubilación.

Leadership training for supervisors

The STRI Human Resources Office organized a leadership and supervision training course for a second group of managers and supervisors during the past 12 weeks. The objective of this training was to strengthen communication skills, the ability to solve problems and conflicts, adapt to changes, and establish performance appraisal policies. Course participants were Gabriel Abrego, Angel Aguirre, Mónica Alvarado, José Barahona, Juan Barria, Fernando Bouche, Fernando Caballero, Nélida Gómez, Xenia Guerra, María Leone, and Andrés Ramos.

More arrivals

Deborah Buehler, University of Illinois, Dec 8 - Feb 15, to work with Jennifer Nesbitt on the reproductive ecology of two species of Formicariidae: demographic parameters and environmental influences, in Gamboa.

Lisa Barnett and Farrand O'Donoghue, Development Office, Washington, D.C., Dec 4-8, to work with Monica Alvarado on arrangements for the SI board meeting in Panama next year.

Departures

Luis D'Croz, Dec 3-9, to Havana, Cuba, to attend the 5th Congress of Marine Sciences.

Don Windsor, Dec 3-9, to Montreal, to participate at the Entomological Society meetings with the conference "Phylogenetic problems in the Hispinae" and to Ottawa, to visit the Canadian National Collection of Insects.

New STRI publications

Basset, Y. 2000. "Insect herbivores foraging on seedlings in an unlogged rain forest in Guyana: spatial and temporal considerations." *Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment* 35: 115-129.

Basset, Y. and Charles, E. 2000. "An annotated list of insect herbivores foraging on the seedlings of five forest trees in Guyana." *Anais da Sociedade Entomológica do Brasil* 29: 433-452.

Breedy, Odalisca, and Guzman, Hector. 2000. "A revision of the genus *Pacifigorgia* (Octocorallia: Gorgoniidae)." In: *World coral reefs in the new millenium: bridging research and management for sustainable development*. Bali, Indonesia: Australian Agency for International Development.

Entrenamiento para supervisores

La Oficina de Recursos Humanos de STRI organizó un curso de liderazgo y supervisión para un segundo grupo de administradores y supervisores, durante las últimas doce semanas. El objetivo de este entrenamiento es reforzar la comunicación efectiva, la habilidad para solucionar problemas y conflictos, adaptarse a los cambios, y establecer políticas para la evaluación del desempeño. Los participantes del curso fueron Gabriel Abrego, Angel Aguirre, Mónica Alvarado, José Barahona, Juan Barria, Fernando Bouche, Fernando Caballero, Nélida Gómez, Xenia Guerra, María Leone, y Andrés Ramos.



STRI Christmas Party!

Friday, December 15

12:30pm - 6pm

Corolú Plaza

Fiesta de Navidad

de STRI

viernes, 15 de

diciembre

12:30pm-6pm Plaza Corolú

Remember to bring your invitation

Recuerde traer su invitación

More publications

Eberhard, William. 2000. "The natural history and behavior of *Hymenoepimecis argyraphaga* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) a parasitoid of *Plesiometa argyra* (Araneae: Tetragnathidae)." *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* 9(2): 220-240.

Garzon-Ferreira, J., Cortes, J., Croquer, A., Guzman, Hector, Leao, Z., and Rodriguez-Ramirez, A. 2000. "Monitoring and status of coral reefs in southern tropical America." In: *World coral reefs in the new millenium: bridging research and management for sustainable development*. Bali, Indonesia: Australian Agency for International Development.

Guzmán, Héctor M. 2000. "Can new large-scale ecological studies enhance the design of a nonfunctional marine protected areas? A case study from Bocas del Toro, Caribbean Panama (Abstract)." In: *World coral reefs in the new millenium: bridging research and management for sustainable development*. Bali, Indonesia: Australian Agency for International Development

Novotny, V. and Basset, Y. 2000. "Ecological characteristics of rare species in communities of tropical insect herbivores: pondering the mystery of singletons." *Oikos* 89: 564-572.

December birthdays

Heide Collazos	3	Grettehun Grajales	13	José Núñez	22
Francisco J. Morales	3	Maricela Salazar	14	Adriana Bilgray	24
Lina Gonzalez	4	Alejandro Garrido	15	Raúl Ríos	25
Venicio Terán	4	Berena Bozzi	15	Elizabeth Sánchez	26
Luis Castillo	6	Pierre Jacinto Fuentes	17	Clementina Chung	26
Leonardo Chavez	6	Dayra Navarro	17	Zuleika Maynard	26
Mirna Samaniego	8	Andrés Ramos	17	Mario Santamaría	27
Jorge Melgar	11	Bailey Kessing	18	Sixto Martínez	28
Tania Quiel	12	Julio Polo	20	Jaime Flores	28
José Ramón Perurena	12	Ira Rubinoff	21		