

## Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 15, noon seminar speaker will be Antoine Kremer, STRI Mellon fellow from l'Institut de Recherche Agronomique, France.

**Range-wide distribution of chloroplast DNA polymorphism and pollen records of European white oaks: inference about colonization dynamics and genetic diversity**

## Bambi seminar

Antoine Kremer  
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique  
Bordeaux, France

Comparative analysis of genetic diversity in tree species of French Guiana

## Arrivals

Antoine Kremer, Mellon fellow from Linden University, The Netherlands, May 12-18, to study the comparative demography and population genetics of trees in French Guiana and Panama, at Naos.

Karen Lips, STRI research associate, May 13 - Jul 14, to continue research projects, at Tupper.

Robin Rossmann, Southern Illinois University, May 13 - Aug 1, to work with Karen Lips investigating the spread and causes of amphibian declines in tropical America at different places in Panama.

Lani Witters, Southern Illinois University, May 13 - Jul 23, to work with Karen Lips at different places in Panama.

Anthony Ranvestel, Southern Illinois University, May 13 - Jul 29, to examine the role of larval anurans in the benthic community of an upland stream in Central Panama.

# STRI news 2001



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

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## New book by Steve Hubbell

Stephen P. Hubbell, professor of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia and staff scientist at STRI just published the book *The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography* at Princeton University Press (2001). Hubbell is the author of more than one hundred papers in tropical plant ecology, theoretical ecology, and plant-animal interactions, y el inventor de *Extinction: The Game of Ecology*. According to Edward O. Wilson, author of *Biodiversity* "this provocative and enlightening work, deeply original and supported by some of the most extensive field research ever conducted in biology, will be regarded as one of the most important contributions to ecology and biogeography of the past half century." For more information and to read a sample chapter hit: [www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/7105.html](http://www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/7105.html)



Stephen P. Hubbell, profesor de Biología de Plantas en la Universidad de Georgia y científico de STRI acaba de publicar el libro *The Unified Neutral Theory of Biodiversity and Biogeography* [Teoría neutral unificada de biodiversidad y biogeografía] en Princeton University Press (2001). Hubbell es autor de más de cien artículos en ecología de plantas tropicales, teoría de la ecología, e interacciones entre plantas y animales, y fue el inventor de *Extinción: el juego de la ecología*. De acuerdo a Edward O. Wilson, autor de *Biodiversidad* "este provocativo e informativo trabajo, profundamente original y que se apoya en una extensiva investigación de campo, será reconocido como una de las contribuciones más importantes a la ecología y la biogeografía de los últimos 50 años. Mayor información (y un capítulo de muestra) en [www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/7105.html](http://www.pup.princeton.edu/titles/7105.html)



## Articles from "The Future of Evolution" in PNAS

The *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) of May 8, published an article by STRI staff scientist Jeremy B.C. Jackson, "What was natural in the coastal oceans?" [98(10): 5411-5418]. Jackson reviews the transformation of five Western Atlantic coastal

## Institution-wide meetings

SI undersecretary for science Dennis O'Connor and Anthony Coates, director for scientific program will hold institution-wide meetings on Wednesday, May 16. This visit is a follow-up to the employee survey conducted last year. Two meetings are organized with simultaneous translation to Spanish: in BCI Conference Room at 8:30am and in the Tupper Center Auditorium at 3pm. All employees are invited to attend one of these meetings.

El subsecretario de SI Dennis O'Connor y Anthony Coates, director del Programa de Investigación Científica celebrarán dos reuniones con todo el personal el miércoles 16 de mayo. Esta visita es un seguimiento a la encuesta a los empleados que se llevó a cabo el año pasado. Se celebrarán dos reuniones con traducción simultánea al español: una en el Salón de Conferencias de BCI a las 8:30 y otra en el Auditorio del Centro Tupper a las 3pm. Se invita a todos los empleados para que asistan a una de estas dos reuniones.

## More arrivals

Daniel Curoe, California, May 13 - June 20, to work with Bryan Eya, at different places in Panama.

Miriam Richards, Brock University, May 14-22, to study the population genetics of *Megalopta* on BCI.

Betsy Arnold, University of Arizona, May 14-29, to study fungal endophytes: ecology and diversity, on BCI.

Maria Vera, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina, to work with A. Stanley Rand on the Tungara project, in Gamboa.

Scott Mangan, Indiana University, May 15 - Dec 20, to study directed dispersal of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi by rodents, on BCI.

Kathleen Lynch, University of Texas, May 15 - Aug 15, to work with A. Stanley Rand on the Tungara project, in Gamboa.

David Logue, Colorado State University, May 15 - Sep 2, to work on a new approach to determine the function of duetting in a tropical wren, on BCI.

Liza Comita, University of Georgia, May 15 - Jul 13, to work with Steve Hubbell on BCI.

Ximena Bernal, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, May 15 - Aug 15, to work with A. Stanley Rand, on the Tungara project, in Gamboa.

Kelly Andersen, University of Utah, May 15 - May 15, 2002, to work with Tom Kursar on the comparative physiology of tolerance to water stress and shade of rainforest plants, on BCI.

Beatriz Baker, University of Utah, May 16 - Jul 2, to work with Tom Kursar, on BCI.



ecosystems over the past few centuries as a result of human exploitation and pollution to demonstrate the extraordinary magnitude of ecological changes that have been largely forgotten and to show how awareness of these changes can benefit efforts for conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems. The same issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* brings an article by staff scientist Nancy Knowlton "The future of coral reefs" [98(10): 5419-5425]. The author reviews the profound changes the coral reefs have experienced due to the effects of people and indicates in her conclusion that collapse of the coral reefs is not impossible and that may be closer than what we realize since they have come and gone and come again throughout the history of life.

Both articles were presented at the National Academy of Sciences colloquium "The Future of Evolution" held on March 16-20 at the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center in Irvine, California.

## Richard Cooke representará a STRI en Patronato Panamá Viejo

En nota del 7 de mayo al presidente del Patronato de Panamá Viejo, el director Ira Rubinoff designó a Richard Cooke, "renombrado arqueólogo e investigador de este Instituto, como representante del suscrito ante el Consejo Asesor del Patronato Panamá Viejo, para facilitar y apoyar los Programas del Patronato y asesorar a la Junta Directiva en los temas de su competencia."

The Nature News Service "*Nature Science Update*" online "Ecology: Ants are voracious weeders" on Thursday, May 10, a review of the article by STRI visiting scientists Cameron Carrie and Alison Stuart "Weeding and grooming of pathogens in agriculture by ants", published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* (2001) 268: 1033-1039. The

**nature scienceupdate**



article points at how ants are evolving better ways of detecting pathogens, and how these evolve better and better ways of avoiding detection. The Nature News Services ([www.nature.com/nsu/](http://www.nature.com/nsu/)) is the popular science syndication arm of the leading international science journal *Nature*.

## Departures

Héctor Guzmán, May 12-18, to Washington DC, to attend the Nature Conservancy workshop and consult with colleagues at SI.

Cristián Samper, May 12-23, to the U.K. to attend meetings of the Cambridge Board of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Global Plant Conservation Strategy.

Ira Rubinoff, May 13-28, to Washington DC, on official business at SI.

Eldredge Bermingham, May 17-25, on OTRAT.

## Congratulations!

To María Staff, for her master's degree in Ecology and Conservation at Santa María Catholic University on Monday, May 7 with th thesis "Study on the ecology and functional morphology of *Capparis antonensis* Woodson (Capparaceae). Her thesis advisor was STRI visiting scientist Kyle Harms. Staff received a STRI Latin American Fellowship to support her research.

## New STRI publications

Bringmann, Gerhard, Ochse, Michael, Zotz, Gerhard, Peters, Karl, Peters, Eva Maria, Brun, Reto, and Schlauer, Jan. 2000. "6-Hydroxyluteolin-7-O-(1'-alpha-rhamnoside) from *Vriesea sanguinolenta* Cogn. and Marchal (Bromeliaceae)." *Phytochemistry* 53(8): 965-969.

Parker, Matthew A. 2001. "Case of localized recombination in 23S rRNA genes from divergent *Bradyrhizobium* lineages associated with neotropical legumes." *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* 67(5): 2076-2082.

Salazar Allen, Noris. 2001. "*Cyatbodium bischlerianum*, sp. nov. (Marchantiales) a new species from the neotropics." *The Bryologist* 104(1): 141-145.