

STRI newsletter

October 11, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 41

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, October 15, noon seminar speaker will be Harvey Pough, Cornell University.

Mimicry of vertebrates: are the rules different?

Abstract

The way mimicry is manifested by vertebrates differs in several respects from the phenomenon as we know it among insects. These differences probably reflect a combination of factors, one of which is the severity of punishment for a dupe that mistakes a model for a mimic. Some vertebrate models, unlike insects, can cause potentially lethal damage to incautious dupes. As a result, potential dupes appear to generalize the characters of models broadly, conferring protection on even inexact mimics. Some potential dupes show innate avoidance of models and mimics. Detailed examination of other model-mimic systems will probably reveal that these phenomena are more common than we currently realize.

Next Week

Tuesday, October 22, noon seminar speaker will be Roberto Ibañez. Title to be announced.

BCI SEMINAR

Tom Kursar and Lizzy Coley will give an evening seminar on Wednesday, Oct 16.

Photosynthetic induction in shade-tolerant plants

There will be a late boat back to Gamboa. Please confirm with Vielka Liao in advance.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Jerome Howard, Oct 15-Jan 15 & Edward Debevec and Scott Armbruster, Oct 21-Jan 15, Univ. of Alaska, to study the chemical ecology of resins produced by *Dalechampia* at Gamboa.



Giovanni Osorio, Marketing Manager, presents gift from Kodak Panama to Marcos Guerra at award ceremony on Oct 4th. Kodak joined STRI to honor M. Guerra who received 1st prize at the 1991 Kodak Impact Scientific Category photo competition in the U.S. Also in the photo, Thomas Pescod (right), General Manager of Kodak Panama, who presented the award ••• Giovanni Osorio, Gerente de Mercadeo, entrega un regalo de Kodak de Panamá a Marcos Guerra durante ceremonia de premiación el 4 de octubre. Kodak se unió al STRI para hacer entrega a M. Guerra del primer lugar del premio U.S. Kodak Impact 1991, en la categoría científica. También en la foto aparece Thomas Pescod (der.), Gerente General de Kodak Panamá quien entregó el premio.

(Foto: Alejandro Caballero)

- Laura Gutierrez, Univ. of Houston, and Steve Swearer, Brown Univ., Oct 14, to work with Ross Roberstson on the larval life histories of neotropical reef fish at Contadora.
- Paul Weldon, National Zoological Park, to do studies of the feeding behavior of yellow-bellied sea snakes.
- David Ellsworth, Mellon fellow, Oct 17-Nov 13, to do research on the evolution and structure of terrestrial ecosystems.

Departures

- Nancy Knowlton, STRI staff scientist, Oct 18-26, to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. on official business.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Holiday ••• Día Feriado

Oct 14 is the celebration of Columbus Day and a STRI holiday ••• El lunes 14 de octubre es un día feriado para el STRI al conmemorarse el día de la raza.

From the STRI Office of Human Resources •••**De la Oficina de Recursos Humanos**

We have just been informed by the Cia. Internacional de Seguros that effective October 31, 1991, the premiums for health insurance will be raised for the *IS CANAL* and the *Open Plan* as follows:

<i>IS Canal:</i>	Self Only	\$16.00
	Family Plan	\$49.50
<i>Open Plan:</i>	Self Only	\$16.07
	Family Plan	\$50.96

If you have any questions, please contact Carmen Sucre or Maritza Perurena at the Office of Human Resources.

•••

La Cia. Internacional de Seguros nos ha informado, que a partir del 31 de octubre de 1991, las primas del seguro de hospitalización de *IS CANAL* y del *Plan Abierto* aumentarán para los suscritos.

<i>IS Canal:</i>	Empleado Solo	\$16.00
	Plan Familiar	\$49.50
<i>Plan Abierto:</i>	Empleado Solo	\$16.07
	Plan Familiar	\$50.96

Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor comunicarse con Carmen Sucre o Maritza Perurena en la Oficina de Recursos Humanos.

Pipeline Road Alert ••• Alerta para Usuarios del Camino del Oleoducto

Users of Pipeline road should be aware that vehicles risk getting stuck due to the effects of erosion caused by heavy rains. The structure of some bridges have also been weakened by these conditions ••• *Se les aconseja a los usuarios del Camino del Oleoducto tener cuidado con los carros que pueden quedarse a medio camino por el efecto de la erosión causada por las lluvias continuas. Algunos puentes también han sufrido daños en sus estructuras.*

Alarm Checkup ••• Prueba de Alarmas

The various alarms at the Tupper Center will be tested out on Sat, Oct 19th ••• *El día sábado 19 de octubre se realizará pruebas a las diversas alarmas ubicadas en el Centro Tupper.*

Volunteer Needed

The Office of Education and Conservation is looking for a volunteer to assist with various projects. If interested in acquiring experience please contact Marissa Crespo at 27-6022, ext. 247.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**At Tupper Center**

Oct 15 *El Niño* Discussion, Meeting Room, 2 pm.

Oct 16 *Amigos de la Biblioteca* Meeting, Meeting Room, 9am-12

El Niño Dry Season Predicted for 91-92

Climatic and ocean current conditions in the South Pacific suggest that there may be another El Niño Event during the 1991-92 dry season. During the 1982-83 El Niño dry season there was greatly increased tree mortality and understory plant wilting on BCI, shifts in frog and lizard distributions and many other unusual patterns in both marine and terrestrial communities. The rains stopped in mid-November and started later than usual in May.

There will be an informal open meeting on Tuesday, October 15, at 2 p.m. in the Tupper Meeting Room to discuss:

- adequacy of current monitoring programs to document the event if it occurs
- additional studies needed
- sources of funds and personnel for such studies

All interested STRI scientific staff, associates, fellows and visitors are welcome to participate.

Environment Ministers to Visit BCI

Ministers of the Environment and members of the CCAD (Comision Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo) will visit BCI on Tuesday, Oct 16, from 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m. Visitors include:

Arq. Jorge Cabrera, Executive Secretary for CCAD,
 Ing. Antonio Cabrales, President of CCAD, El Salvador
 Dr. Jaime Incer and Edgar Sotomayor, for Nicaragua
 Lic. Herman Bravo, Costa Rica
 Mr. Victor Gonzalez, Belice
 Ing. Antonio Ferrete, Guatemala
 Ing. Franklin Bertrabd, Honduras
 Ing. Luis F. Narváez, Lic. Bolivar Pariente, Ing. Eric Santamaría and Lic. Alberto Manelia, Panama.

STRI Participation at Symposium in Paris

As previously announced STRI scientists participated in the International Symposium on Food and Nutrition in the Tropical Forest: Biocultural interactions and applications to development. The symposium, which was sponsored jointly by UNESCO and the CNRS, took place in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from the 10th to 13th of September. It was attended by more than 150 participants from all over the world. Drs. Annette and Marcel Hladik of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) were the principal organizers. Olga Linares was also part of the local organizing committee and a lead discussant in the opening session. Egbert Leigh is one of the main editors of the proceedings volume. The volume will be published by UNESCO-Parthenon Press and the Biosphere Book Series.

Oportunidades de Trabajo

Se necesita persona bilingüe para posición de Ayudante de Contabilidad/Cajero(a). Requisitos: título en Contabilidad/Comercio, experiencia en contabilidad comercial y gubernamental, incluyendo funciones de caja. Conocimientos y/o experiencia en equipo IBM/PC. Recibiremos aplicaciones hasta el 18 de octubre.

Se necesita persona bilingüe para trabajar en la Oficina de Compras, de octubre 21 a diciembre 14 y de enero 13 al 6 de marzo de 1992. Requisitos: conocimientos sobre proveeduría de útiles de oficina, materiales de mantenimiento y suministros para laboratorios científicos. Conocimientos de computadoras para entrar datos relacionados con el trabajo. Trabajo temporal por contrato. Recibiremos aplicaciones hasta el 18 de octubre.

Sporting Event Update - Nov 22 •••**Evento Deportivo - Noviembre 22**

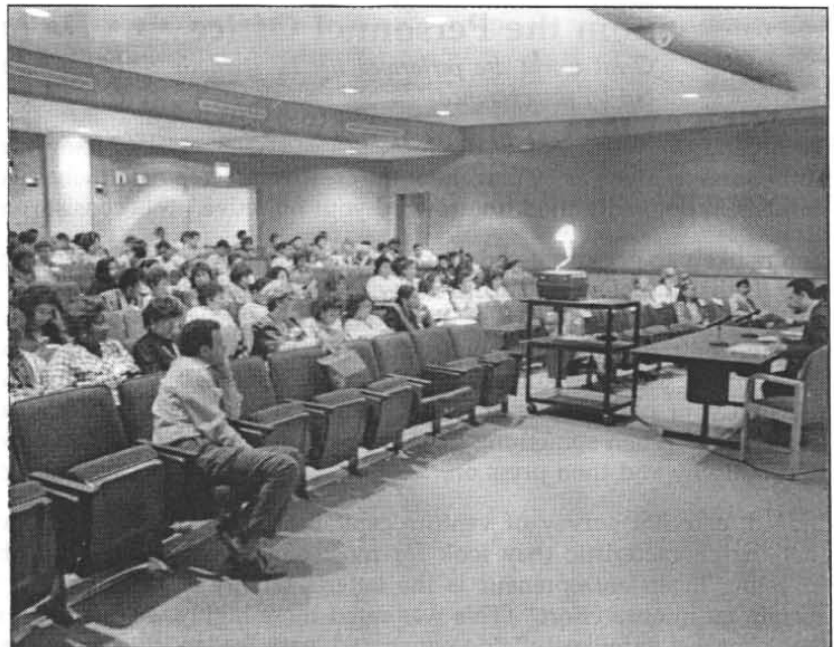
The bicycling race will cover 3 km and will be split into the following categories: women/men-racing bike, women/men-mountain bike ••• La carrera de ciclismo será de 3 km y será dividida en las siguientes categorías: mujer/hombre - bicicleta de carrera, mujer/hombre - bicicleta montañera.

For Sale

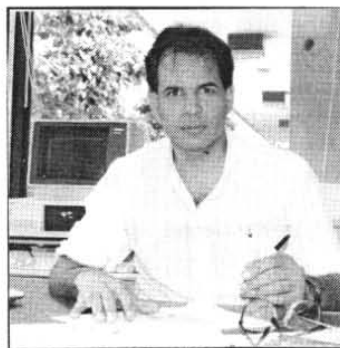
HP DeskJet 500 printer with all books and special printer driver for Windows. \$600. For more information contact Alejandro Caballero, Photo-Lab, ext. 361.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

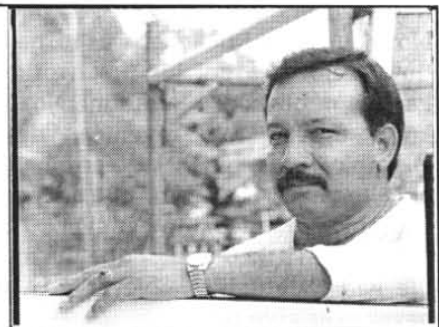
- Duke, Norman.** 1991. "Nypa in the Mangroves of Central America: Introduced or Relict?" *Principes* 35(3): 127-132.
- Herrera, Heraclio.** 1991. Plantas Usadas en la Medicina Tradicional en el Oeste de Kuna Yala (San Blas), Panamá.
- Robertson, Alistar I. and Duke, Norman C.** 1990. "Recruitment, Growth and Residence Time of Fishes in a Tropical Ustralian Mangrove System." *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 31: 723-743.
- Salazar Allen, Noris.** 1991. "A preliminary Treatment of the Central American Species of *Octoblepharum* (Musci: Calymperaceae)." *Tropical Bryology* 4: 85-97.



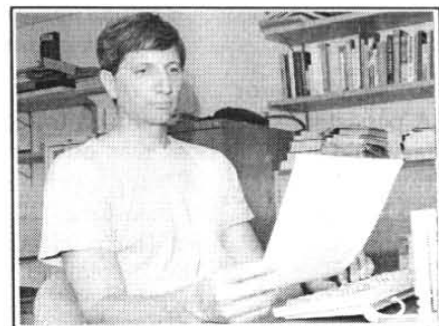
STRI hosted Panama's II National Information Forum on Oct 3 at the Tupper Center Auditorium. The forum was organized by a committee of national and international organizations ••• El 3 de octubre en el auditorio del Centro Tupper del STRI se llevó a cabo el II Foro Internacional de Información organizado por un comité de organizaciones nacionales e internacionales. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

New Faces at STRI

Daniel Millán, BCI



Ricardo Gómez, Procurement



Richard Condit, Tupper Center

From the Personnel Office ••• *De la Oficina de Personal*

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

Las grandes obras no se logran por la fuerza sino por la perseverancia.

Perseverance

Sometimes as much as 80 percent of the creative process consists in doggedly plodding toward your objective.

You're likely to get knocked down a few times along the way. If that happens, get up. Otherwise you'll end up with footprints on your back. Everyone has setbacks. People don't return your phone calls. Your brochure gets printed on the wrong paper. Your soufflé falls. It rains on your parade. The little sales gimmicks you try don't work. When something goes wrong, you should find out why and then press on.

Indeed, a recent survey of venture capitalists showed that the characteristic they look for most often when investing in an entrepreneur is the latter's "ability to sustain an intense effort." (This was rated more highly than "market familiarity," "demonstrated past leadership," and "ability to take a risk.")

Michelangelo had to endure seven years on a scaffold to paint the Sistine Chapel. Vladimir Lenin spent thirty years preparing for his revolution. Inventor Chester Carlson pounded the streets for years before he could find backers for his "Xerox" photocopying process. Novelist James Michener was turned down a number of times before he got his first work, *Tales of the South Pacific*, published. Marathoner Joan Benoit underwent knee surgery only seventeen days before the U.S. Olympic Trials, but her determination enabled her not only to make the team, but also to win the first ever Olympic gold medal in her event. As Winston Churchill put it when asked to describe the most important lesson life had taught him, "Never give up, never give up, never ever give up."

Difficulties are only opportunities in work clothes.

Sense of Humor

A persistent salesman refused to leave when the secretary told him the boss was out. An hour passed, then two. Finally, weary of being a prisoner in his own office, the boss admitted the salesman. "My secretary told you I was out," exclaimed the puzzled boss. "How'd you know I was in?" "Easy," explained the salesman. "Your secretary was working."

Perseverancia

Muchas veces, un 80 por ciento del proceso creativo consiste en perseverar con insistencia hacia los objetivos.

Es muy probable que Ud. caiga algunas veces a lo largo del camino. Si esto sucede, levántese. Si no lo hace, terminará con huellas en su espalda. Todos tenemos tropiezos. Personas que no contestan sus llamadas telefónicas. Su panfleto lo imprimieron en un papel equivocado. El soufflé no le subió. Llovió durante el desfile. Sus pequeños trucos de ventas no le funcionaron. Cuando algo no salga bien, debe averiguar por qué y continuar sin titubeos.

En efecto, una encuesta hecha recientemente por empresarios capitalistas mostró que la característica que ellos más buscan en un empresario es "su habilidad para soportar esfuerzos intensos." (Esto tuvo más importancia que "conocimientos del mercado," "liderazgo comprobado," y "habilidad para tomar riesgos.")

Miguel Angel soportó siete años en un andamio para pintar la Capilla Sixtina. A Vladimir Lenin le tomó treinta años preparar su revolución. El inventor Chester Carlson recorrió las calles por años antes de encontrar patrocinadores para su proceso "Xerox" de fotocopiado. Al novelista James Michener le rechazaron muchos trabajos antes de que le publicaran su primer libro *Historias del Pacífico Sur*. A la corredora Joan Benoit le hicieron cirugía de la rodilla diecisiete días antes de las pruebas para las Olimpiadas, pero su voluntad e intrepidez le permitieron no solo formar parte del equipo, sino también ganar la primera medalla de oro olímpica para los Estados Unidos en su evento. Al igual que dijo Winston Churchill cuando le pidieron que describiera la lección más importante que la vida le había enseñado, "Nunca te des por vencido, nunca te des por vencido, jamás te des por vencido."

Las dificultades son solo oportunidades en ropa de trabajo.

Sentido del Humor

Un vendedor muy perseverante no se quiso retirar cuando la secretaria le informó que el jefe no estaba. Pasó una hora, y luego dos. Finalmente, cansado de estar prisionero en su propia oficina, el jefe hizo pasar al vendedor. "Mi secretaria le dijo que yo había salido," exclamó el sorprendido jefe. "Cómo supo que yo estaba aquí?" "Fácil," explicó el vendedor. "Su secretaria estaba trabajando."

Hasta la proxima!

Carmen Fucal