

SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

No seminar speaker scheduled for Tuesday, September 27. Check your bulletin boards for last minute notices.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, October 4, noon seminar speaker will be NANCY GARWOOD, STRI Research Associate.

Tropical Forest Seed
Germination and/or Seed
Banks.

ARRIVALS

September 29 - December 31, ELLEN SMITH, University of Washington, to study the evolution of parental care in four species of frogs in Gamboa.

October 5 - December 15, MARVALEE WAKE AND DAVID WAKE, University of California at Berkeley, to study tropical amphibians (caecilians) and patterns of distribution in salamanders, respectively, in Gamboa.

October 6 - November 30, Margaret Tebbs, British Museum (Natural History), to collaborate with Nancy Garwood on An illustrated manual of seedlings of tropical moist forest in Panama.

DEPARTURES

October 3 - 16, ALAN SMITH, to Washington, D.C. to attend conference on "The Consequences of the Greenhouse Effect". Then to Cambridge to attend meetings and to visit the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Today is the last day of FY1988 and for the first time in many years the President and the Congress have agreed upon our budget in time for us to plan the next year before it begins. This unusual event has put an extraordinary burden upon our accounting, budget and procurement staff. Juggling the end of one year, establishing the accounts for the next, and simultaneously planning the new budget, is no mean task. They have met the challenge with long-hours, a spirit of cooperation and a strong sense of dedication to the task of keeping the Institute operating smoothly. I am extremely grateful to them for their devotion and determination in support of our scientists and their programs.

We look forward to the new fiscal year, particularly to the challenge of integrating new personnel and facilities into a more efficient and collegial environment for the pursuit of tropical biology.

Thank you all.

Ira Rubinoff

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1988						
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30	31					

October 6 - General meeting in the STRI Ancon Conference Room at 4:30 p.m. on the 1992 World Parks' Congress in Panama.

October 10 - Columbus Day is an official STRI holiday.

October 11 - STRI Scientific Staff Meeting at Ancon. Panamanian Holiday; banks will be closed.

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY STRI STAFF,
FELLOWS AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

West-Eberhard, M.J. 1987. Observations of Xenorhynchium nitidulum (Fabricius) (Hymenoptera, Eumeninae), a primitively social wasp. *Psyche* 94(3-4): 317-323.

West-Eberhard, M.J. 1988. Phenotypic plasticity and "genetic" theories of insect sociality. IN E. Tobach and G. Greenberg, eds., Evolution of Social Behavior and Integrative levels. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum Press, pp. 123-133.

Robertson, D.R. 1988. Extreme variation in settlement of the Caribbean triggerfish Balistes vetula in Panama. *Copeia* 1988: 698-703.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries has issued a brochure INFORMATION FOR BORROWERS with the following regulations:

"Borrowers are responsible for all library materials borrowed from SIL or through interlibrary loan. The borrower is expected to report any loss or damage to the appropriate SIL branch library as soon as it is discovered. In the event of loss of SIL material, the borrower is liable for the cost of replacement plus a \$25 fee for the cost of processing. Replacement costs of lost interlibrary loan material are determined by the lending library. If SIL or interlibrary loan material is damaged, the SIL Chief Conservator will examine the item and determine the cost of repair, for which the borrower will be billed."

ON LEAVE

Ricardo Cortez, Sept. 26 - Oct. 7
Vielka Vergel, Sept. 27 - Oct. 10

SEMINAR ON PALEOBIOLOGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE
NEOTROPICS

The first meeting of this seminar will be held on Tuesday, October 4, at 4 p.m. in the Ancon Conference. Scientific questions of particular interest to participants will be reviewed, also the environments, organisms, and time scales involved. Participants should come prepared to briefly introduce one or more questions that could serve as subjects for future meetings. For further information contact Jeremy Jackson or Dolores Piperno at Naos (52-5840).

IGUANA MANAGEMENT PROJECT

This month the core and administration of the Iguana Management Project moves to Costa Rica after five years at STRI completing its basic research phase. In Costa Rica the project, directed by the Pro Iguana Verde Foundation (Apartado 1501, Heredia, Tel: 37-1027), will collaborate with the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in Heredia (UNA), and students from the Wildlife Management Master's Program of the UNA will participate. Research installations will be located at the Wildlife Refuge La Avellana next to the Biological Reserve Carara. In Panama, community iguana rearing work will continue in Chupampa, Cabuya de Anton and Llano Grande de Ocu, coordinated by Uribiades Nieto and with regular supervision from Dr. Werner. We wish Dagmar Werner and her assistants (Daisy Rey, Yara Cerrud, Armando Batista, Julio Arias and Daniel Montenegro) continued success in Costa Rica.

FROM FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Repairs on the JACANA will be delayed for a few more weeks pending the arrival of replacement parts from the U.S. Meanwhile, the Las Cruces will continue to provide passenger service to BCI.

WEATHER SATELLITE PICTURES

The meteorological section of the Panama Canal Commission is retransmitting weather satellite pictures (usually but not always) in color on UHF channel 25. This fascinating transmission switches between the entire Republic of Panama showing cloud cover and, to the cognoscenti, where it is raining. The other view is a 'slow motion' video of the Canal area and watershed showing cloud cover and, through a false color code, the exact location of rain storms (in red).

The satellite pictures are received by the big disk antenna outside the administration building and rebroadcast by a 100 watt (low) transmitter with a three lobe pattern ENE at the Curundu area, NNW at the Diablo-Miraflores area and SSW to the Howard Air Force Base. The broadcast antenna is located at the 200' level of the tower atop Ancon Hill or 851' ASL. If you can see the tower, have an outside loop antenna (it can be made from a clothes hanger), and a receiver with UHF capability, you can receive this 24 hours.

VOLUNTEER

FEDERICO ZENTNER, the manager of a local bank, is interested in volunteering as a diving buddy on weekends. He has PADI certification and his own equipment. If interested, call 36-0650.

AFFECTED BY HURRICANE

BRIAN KELLER, Oil Spill Project, is organizing a collection for the Discovery Bay Marine Lab in Jamaica. The lab survived Hurricane Gilbert with only moderate damage, but there is much work to be done. Persons interested in such a donation should contact Dr. Keller. The lab is a registered charitable organization in the U.S.; please indicate whether you need a receipt.

JOBS AVAILABLE

The Board of Studies in Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, announces a full-time senior faculty position. Requirements include Ph.D. in a field related to environmental sustainability, and with a sustained record of professional publications, and excellence in teaching. Send application, CV, and list of 3 references to Chair, Board of Environmental Studies, U. of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, by October 15th.

The Department of Biology at the University of Utah seeks to hire two tenure-track biologists specializing in non-marine invertebrates (particularly insects). Positions will be filled at the Assistant Professor level in (1) evolutionary ecology/systematics and (2) comparative and/or ecological physiology. Send letter of application, CV, publications, and 3 letters of recommendation to D. Davidson, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

COURTESY OF JOHN BURNS, SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTION ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT (?)

Rocky Intertidal Strife

To a Lonely Hermaphrodite

Know
Thyself.

Fitness By Any Other
Name Would Be As
Loose

A group inept
Might better opt
To be adept
And so adopt
Ways more apt
To wit, adapt.

Fighting the ups and downs
Of an ever-lavin'
Blue-dyed
Wateredge
The rocky intertidal
Lathers its interface
And from time to time
Appears
To hold the sea at bay
With a show of mussels.
This prime frontage
Zoned
For crowded uneasy living
Supports a variably piled
Mat
Of animals and plants
Inclined to be exclusive.
I have heard green algal
Seaweeds such as *Ulva* say
'Like good producers, we eat
Light
But the goddam periwinkles
Littorally graze us--and *Fucus*--
In a catatrophic way?'

Biomodels

A model in its elegance
Is better than reality
Its graphical simplicity
Denotes a rare intelligence.

The simple graph incites the wrath
Of field men who, half undressed,
Go rushing out to start a test
Which culminates in aftermath.

Elucidation

Blues

With a plethora
Of words
The would-be
Explicator
Hides himself
Like a squid
In his own ink.