

# STRI newsletter

NOVEMBER 24, 1989

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 48

## SEMINAR NEWS

Tuesday, November 28, noon seminar speaker, Ancon Conference Room, will be **James Thomson**, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

*Determinants of male reproductive success in an insect-pollinated lily.*

### Abstract

I will describe the use of a pollen-color dimorphism to document quantitative patterns of pollen transfer in a bee-pollinated lily, then use the data to construct the "male gain curve" (i.e., the relationship between investment in male function and success through male function), a critical component of sex allocation theory. With the gain curve specified, simulation models can be built to examine alternative tactics of pollen presentation.

**James Thomson**, State University of New York, will also give a BCI evening seminar on Monday, November 27, at 7:30 p.m.

### *Trap-lining bees.*

(A special boat will leave BCI at 9:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please make your reservations with Maritza Concepcion on BCI for the return boat before 2:00 p.m. on Monday. The regular boat leaves Gamboa at 5:35 p.m.; dinner is at 6:30 p.m.)

## NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, December 5, Ancon noon seminar speaker is **Gerald Wellington**, University of Houston.

*Variation in components of fitness in an undersaturated damselfish population.*

## ARRIVALS

■ November 28, **Laura Beal**, Dr. Bermingham's assistant, to work at Naos.

## DEPARTURES

■ November 23, **Alejandro Arze**, STRI security officer, on official business to Washington, D.C.  
■ November 26 - December 3, **Eric Fischer**, deputy director, to Washington, D.C. on official business.

## ANNUAL LEAVE

Georgina de Alba, November 24 - 28  
Gilberto Ocaña, November 24 - 30  
Carlos Urbina, November 24 - 30



After 15 years with STRI, most of them spent trying to bring some order into the functioning of Barro Colorado Island, **Barbara Cusatti** is leaving to join members of her family in the United States. We - especially those whose lives are connected with BCI - are sorry to see her go, and wish her a more peaceful life in her new surroundings.

Después de 15 años con el Smithsonian, en su mayoría esforzándose por traer orden al funcionamiento de Barro Colorado, **Barbara Cusatti** va a reunirse con su familia en los E.E.U.U. Nosotros - especialmente los que tenemos un vínculo con la isla - sentimos mucho su ida y le deseamos una vida más apacible en su nuevo hogar.

**REMINDERS**

- This month's **Scientific Staff Meeting** has been postponed for one week, until December 5, due to continuing uncertainties regarding budget allocations.
- The next **Administrative Staff Meeting** has been postponed until further notice.

**OECOLOGIA PUBLICATIONS**

Henk Wolda has recently become a member of the editorial board of *Oecologia* (Berlin). Anyone who wishes to submit a manuscript to *Oecologia* might find it convenient to consider submitting the manuscript through him.

**NEW PUBLICATIONS RESULTING FROM WORK AT STRI**

Lidgard, S. and Jackson, J.B.C. 1989. Growth in encrusting cheilostome bryozoans. I. Evolutionary trends. *Paleobiology* 15: 255 - 28.

**ACADEMICS VS CONSERVATION**

*Taken from the AAAS Observer*

"Janzen (Daniel Janzen), a AAAS member since 1966, was part of the 15-year resurgence of whole-organism field biology that began in the mid-1960s. Tenured at the University of Pennsylvania, he is best known for his work on co-evolution, describing and speculating about the ways plants and their attendant animals or insects partner each other for mutual survival (and for winning one of this year's MacArthur Foundation 'genius' awards). Partly because of the surge in molecular and cell biology, whole-organism field biology now languishes. *The easy-to-do stuff got done, the academic stuff. We're now at the stage where not only is a whole lot of imagination needed, but also megaco-operation by people, and sometimes megabudgets*, he said.

*I can see pretty clearly how I could take some major steps to put it partly back in the limelight but, very frankly, I don't have the time. I have ranked saving wild land areas and putting permanent management systems into them as more important*, he said. *If we*

*do the whole organism biology now we'll do a little bit, but future generations won't have anything to play with.*

Could professional associations and scientists do more to aid conservation and restoration of ecosystems? *Yeah, but it would require more altruism than they normally show*, he said. *Academics are ecologically selected to be introspective and inwardly focussed. That's how they got to be academics*, he observed. *I'm pretty cynical. I've watched this process for the past 4 - 5 years. I understand it as a biologist, but I'm appalled at the lack of response by the academic community.*

**FIESTA DE NAVIDAD DE LAS PAVAS**

Como tradicionalmente lo han hecho año tras año, el Cuerpo de Guardabosques del Monumento Natural de Barro Colorado está organizando una fiesta de Navidad en la comunidad de Las Pavas, el día 15 de diciembre de 1989. Se pide la colaboración de todos, enviando ropa, zapatos, juguetes, accesorios, etc. en buen estado para ser donados a la comunidad. Favor enviar los paquetes a la isla de Barro Colorado a Maritza Concepción o Alejandro Hernandez. Muchas gracias!

**EXCESS ANNUAL LEAVE - VACACIONES ACUMULADAS EN DEMASIA**

All employees are reminded that annual leave in excess of 240 hours cannot be carried over into the next leave year, and will be forfeited if not used by January 13, 1990.

Se les recuerda a todos los empleados que perderán las horas de vacaciones que tengan acumuladas en exceso de 240 horas, si no las toman antes del 13 de enero de 1990.

**DIA FERIADO EN PANAMA**

El 28 de noviembre se celebra la independencia de Panamá de España; un día feriado para Panamá pero no para STRI.

**BIENVENIDA A UN NUEVO BEBE**

Roxana y Eduardo Durán son los felices padres de Natalie, nacida el 13 de noviembre a las 7:00 p.m. en el Hospital Paitilla. Pesó 7 lbs. 4 ozs.

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

The University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras is looking to fill the position of Chairman for their Department of Biology. The candidate must have a doctorate in any area of biology, have a record of research achievement in her/his field of interest, and be committed to the support of quality teaching and research. The position requires the ability to communicate in English as well as Spanish.

The Department consists of 44 professors, 492 biology majors and 53 graduate students. It offers B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees with the participation of 20 scientists, in the areas of cellular-molecular, organismal and population biology, as well as several interdisciplinary areas. The principal mission of the department is teaching and research in tropical biology.

The Rio Piedras Campus is the central campus of the university, a short distance from the old city of San Juan. Rank and salary are negotiable. Application deadline is December 1, 1989.

Send your letter of application, curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation to:

- Dr. James Ackerman  
Chair, Search Committee  
Dept. of Biology  
University of Puerto Rico  
Rio Piedras, PR 00931  
Tel: (809) 764-0000, Ext. 2023.

**THE DURFEE FOUNDATION STUDENT EXPEDITION AWARDS**

The Durfee Foundation is a philanthropic organization committed to encouraging individual endeavors and self-realization. It has arranged with the Center for Field Research-EARTHWATCH to provide opportunities for gifted,

mature students in their junior or senior year in high school, or freshman year of college, to experience research in the field. Any scientist and/or field station manager interested in working with *small* groups of such students, should send a summary of their research, qualifications and details of work location to:

- The Center for Field Research  
680 Mt. Auburn Street  
Box 403AD  
Watertown, MA 02272.

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS**

These fellowships are awarded to women of outstanding academic ability who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States for full-time graduate or postgraduate study or research in the United States. Applicants must hold the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by December 1, 1989. Strong preference will be given to women whose credentials prove prior commitment to the amelioration of the lives of other women and girls through civic, community, or professional work and whose study or research proposals show a continued interest in the advancement of women. Upon completion of studies, fellowship recipients must return to their home countries to pursue a professional career; preference will be given to applicants who can verify that there is a definite position to which they will return. Applicants are judged on their professional potential and on the importance of their projects to their country of origin.

These fellowships are \$13,000 each.

Application postmark deadline: December 1, 1989.  
Fellowship year: September 1, 1990 - May 31, 1991.

AAUW Educational Foundation  
2401 Virginia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Tel: (202) 728-7603

**COMPUTER TIPS**

"WordPerfect Corporation announces plans to release version 5.1 of their PC word processor sometime between November and the end of January. This new version includes an integral equation editor, tables, spreadsheet links, mouse support, and printing support for the entire WP character set of over 1700 symbols."

■Will WordPerfect 5.1 require the same level of retraining and rethinking that 5.0 did? Not so. Versions 5.0 and 5.1 are very similar; the changes represent enhancements and new options. For example, tests show most of the macros and keyboards will work without modification in 5.1. But remember that first releases may not have all of the software bugs ironed out yet.

■WPCorp will continue to support version 5.0 for one year from release of 5.1. Users with slow or non-hard drive machines will find 5.1 more difficult to manage due to its size. For ordering information write: **WordPerfect 5.1 Update, 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, UTAH 84057.**

■Some new features and enhancements include:

*Setup*

Default directories for the style libraries, documents, and graphic files can be specified. Mouse support is included. Various text drivers are supported, allowing WP to change the screen text modes. Pull down menus are now available.

*Help*

From any prompt/menu you can press Help and WP will display help for that particular menu or feature.

*Reveal Codes*

The size of the Reveal Codes window can be sized.

*Move/Copy*

Two new shortcut keys for Move and Copy are included.

*List*

You can obtain a list of filenames using List from any prompt that requires a filename. While looking at a file, you can move to the next or previous file with one keystroke. You can also block and save text, including formatting codes, from the file you are viewing and insert them into another document.

*Text In/Out*

Allows you to save 5.1 documents in 5.0 format. Features/codes not available in 5.0 will be stripped out.

*Tables*

Allows you to easily set up several rows and columns of information and manipulate them in various ways. Math operations can be incorporated.

*Columns*

Columns can be inserted into graphic boxes, headers, and footers.

*Equations*

The new equation editor inserts an equation in a graphic box which can then be scaled and manipulated. Each symbol or character has a keyword associated with it that can be typed in directly to produce the desired symbol. The resulting equation can be printed in two ways-graphic or non-graphic. When the non-graphic option is chosen, WP attempts to print the equation using any available character set on the printer. If a symbol is encountered that the printer cannot print as text, WP attempts to print it using graphics but the rest of the equation is printed as text. When the graphic option is selected, WP prints the entire equation in graphics.

*Dormant Hard Returns*

5.1 will convert the second hard return after a paragraph to a dormant hard return if it spans a page break. This will eliminate blank lines appearing at the beginning of pages.

**HUMOR**