

# STRI newsletter

MAY 4, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 18

## SEMINARS

### Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, May 8, noon seminar speaker will be Emmett Duffy, SI National Museum of Natural.

*Ecology and evolution of feeding patterns in herbivorous marine amphipods.*

#### Abstract

Several small herbivorous invertebrates eat seaweeds that are chemically defended from fishes. Both food choice and distribution of amphipods among plants in the field suggest that fish predation is an important selective agent on host use patterns in these animals. Conversely, host use is not closely related to nutritional quality. Comparisons among amphipods species reveal that resistance to seaweed chemical defenses and association with defended seaweeds are more pronounced in less mobile amphipods, for which habitat and food are closely linked.

That evening at 6 p.m., Steve Paton, long-term monitoring program coordinator for the Charles Darwin Research Station, will give a talk. BCI residents who plan to attend should sign-up with Maritza Concepción for a late boat.

*Galapagos: research, conservation and tourism.*

#### Abstract

The Galapagos Islands are located 1000 km west of continental Ecuador. Composed of 7 major islands and over 50 small islands and islets, they represent a unique natural laboratory for the study of evolution. 97% of the islands are part of the Galapagos National Park System. Much of the work of the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Service is centered on conserving the islands in the face of an ever increasing local populace and tourists visiting the islands every year.

Special seminar on *Saturday, May 12*, at 6 p.m. Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Frank Baird Jr. Professor of Science and Curator of Entomology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University will give a talk; a reception will follow.

*The present status of global biodiversity.*

#### NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, May 15, noon seminar speaker will be Pierre Forget, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle du Paris.

*Ecology of Dipteryx panamensis on BCI: the importance of floristic and faunal interactions and annual variations at the community level.*

Tuesday, at 6 p.m., Barbara Leyden, University of South Florida, will give a paleoecology job seminar on--

*Late Pleistocene and Holocene environmental history of Central America.*

Thursday, May 17, Paul Colinvaux, Ohio State University, will give a paleoecology job seminar at noon.

*Environmental history and climatic change in the Amazon Basin and lowland tropics of the New World.*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- James Roper, University of Pennsylvania, May 7 - August 31, to study food limitation and habitat selection as limits of reproductive success in neotropical birds in Gamboa.
- Ulisses Galatti, I.N.P.A.-Brazil, May 8-August 8, to study the variation in morphology, vocalization, and habitats of *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* (Amphibia) on Barro Colorado Island, Parque Nacional Soberania, and other sites.
- Howard Lasker, State University of New York, May 9 - September 1991, to study effects of vegetative propagation on the abundance and distribution of benthic invertebrates in San Blas.

**Arrivals (continued)**

- Mary Alice Coffroth, University of Buffalo (N.Y.), May 9 - August 1991, to study population genetics of a clonal gorgonian at Naos.
- Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University, May 9 - 14, to visit STRI facilities, present a seminar and examine the forest canopy on BCI. Accompanying Dr. Wilson will be Ms. Elizabeth Royte, writer from The New York Times, who is doing a profile on him.
- Robert Srygley, University of Texas at Austin, May 10 - August 21, to study association of palatability with flight behavior and thermal biology of neotropical butterflies.

**Departures**

- ◆ May 7 - 10, Elena Lombardo, on official business to Washington D.C.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

This month's scientific staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the Tupper Meeting Room.

May 13 is National Census Day in Panama.

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW****Día Nacional del Censo**

Los empleados de STRI que tengan que trabajar el día del censo nacional, domingo 13 de mayo, deberán acercarse al Centro Regional del Censo en su corregimiento respectivo, entre el 9 y el 12 de mayo, para cumplir con el empadronamiento. Los lugares específicos en cada corregimiento saldrán publicados en los periódicos.

**Tupper Parking Regulations**

The two parking spaces in front of the Procurement Offices and next to the entrance to the Tupper Building are reserved for personnel or visitors delivering merchandise only.

**BCI Journal Club**

The BCI Journal Club will meet Thursday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. A launch will leave Gamboa at 5:35 p.m. and return from the island at 9:00 p.m. Paper to be discussed: Marquis, R.J. 1990. Genotypic variation in leaf damage in *Piper arieianum* (Piperaceae) by a multispecies assemblage of herbivores. *Evolution* 44:104-120.

**Savings Bond Campaign**

The 1990 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign will be held this year from May 10-31. Check the bulletin board at each facility for more information. The canvassers for STRI will be: Vielka Vergel (Tupper), Mercedes Arosemena (Naos), Maritza Concepción (BCI), Osmila Sánchez (Surfside), Carmen Sucre (Tivoli).

**Personnel News**

*Lidia Mann* begins May 7 as the new procurement clerk, with a two-year term appointment. Ms. Mann previously worked as a secretary at the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory; she has extensive experience with different banks in Panama. She will be assisting the procurement staff with clerical work.

**From BCI / De BCI**

Need old newspapers? Contact Maritza Concepción on BCI, 52-2124.

Necesita periódicos viejos? Llame a Maritza Concepción en Barro Colorado, 52-2124, quien podrá enviarle la cantidad que necesite.

**Gigante Station Coordinator**

Nicholas Smythe has accepted the position as Gigante Coordinator, and will be in charge of supervising and developing plans for the facilities on the Gigante Peninsula. •Guidelines are being prepared for researchers wishing to work at this facility. •Applications for space should be submitted through the Visitor Services Office, and will be evaluated by the Barro Colorado Nature Monument Committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Comisión Mixta sobre el Ambiente Natural**

*Mireya Correa*, científica de STRI, conjuntamente con los investigadores asociados de STRI, Luis d'Cross (Univ. de Panamá) y Stanley Heckadon (director de INRENARE), han sido nombrados como representantes por la República de Panamá ante la Comisión Mixta sobre el Ambiente Natural del Canal de Panamá.

**Comisión para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia**

El presidente de la república, Guillermo Endara G., nombró una Comisión Ad-Hoc para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología, el pasado 17 de abril de 1990. *Gilberto Ocaña*, científico de STRI, fue una de las 16 personas nombradas para integrar dicha comisión, que se dedicará a "formular lineamientos de políticas sobre ciencia y tecnología que deban servir de marco de referencia para la elaboración de un Plan Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología".

**STRI Audiovisual Library**

The Environmental Audiovisual Library, under the STRI Office of Education and Conservation, has received several new videos from the Smithsonian Institution video collection. These include The National Zoo, Gems and Minerals, Flying Machines, Dinosaurs and Insects, and U.S. First Ladies. These videos are available on loan to STRI personnel, and schools and organizations in Panama. For further information, contact Gloria Zelaya at Tupper (62-3224).

**Aulladores de STRI**

Los "Aulladores de STRI" estarán compitiendo en una liga de 12 equipos comenzando el 14 de mayo. Para escoger el equipo de STRI habrá práctica el martes 8 y el jueves 10 de mayo a las 4:30 p.m. en el campo de juego de Gamboa, frente a la estación de gasolina. Para mayor información favor comunicarse con Juan Carlos Roqueiro en el Taller de Naos (28-4465)

**Newsletter Deadline / Fin de Plazo para Hoja Informativa**

A reminder to all contributors that if you wish to have information incorporated in the current week's newsletter, it must be received by the STRI Education Office by *Wednesday at 5 p.m.* The editor requests that information longer than one paragraph be sent, if possible, via diskette (in Multimate, Wordperfect or Wordstar in MSDOS format). Your collaboration and contributions are much appreciated!

**Se les recuerda** a todos los contribuyentes a la hoja informativa de STRI que el fin de plazo para recibir información para esa semana es el **miercoles a las 5 p.m.** en la Oficina de Educación. Para historias de más de un párrafo de largo se pide que nos las envíen, si les es posible, via diskette en formato MSDOS, ya sea en Multimate, Wordperfect o Wordstar. Muchas gracias!

**Talk on Bocas del Toro**

Charles Handley, SI National Museum of Natural History, gave a talk in Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, on April 29, presenting an overview of his work there since 1983 on the biodiversity of the archipelago and stressing the ecological importance of the area.

***The Tupper Restaurant announces the following special menu:***

♦ ***Tuesday, May 8, Mexican Food***

***(A regular lunch menu will also be served that day.)***

## STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

Advances in Microbial Ecology, v.11 (M. Marshall, ed., 1977-)

Alur society ; a study in processes and types of domination (AW Southall, 1956) **GN659.A456X 1956 STRI.**

Bibliography of the marine environment : Caribbean (United Nations Environment Programme, 1988) Ref **Z6004.P6B5ca 1988 STRI**

Conservation biology in Hawaii (CP Stone & DB Stone, eds., 1989) **QH76.5.H3C66 1989X STRI.**

Cytoplasmic organization systems (GM Malacinski, ed., 1990) **QH591.C97 1990X STRI.**

Despejando el aire : perspectivas sobre el humo de tabaco en el ambiente (RD Tollison, comp., 1989) **TD883.1.C58X S1989 STRI.**

Ecophysiology of metals in terrestrial invertebrates (SP Hopkin, 1989) **QL364.H67 1989X STRI.**

A field guide to the birds of Galapagos (M. Harris, 1982) **QL694.G2H37X 1982 STRI.**

Fish endocrinology (AJ Matty, 1985) **QL639.1.M44 1985 STRI.**

The Flora of St. Croix and the Virgin Islands, (HFA Eggers, 1879) **QK231.V5E29 1879 STRI.**

Geology and physical geography of Brazil (CF Hartt, 1870) **QE235.H33 STRI.**

The History of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa (Universities' Mission to Central Africa, 1955-62) **BV3520.U587X 1955 v.1-3 STRI.**

Influencia del Canal de Panama en el desarrollo de America desde el punto de vista científico (J. Zetek, 1928) **QH108.P3Z612 1928 STRI.**

Marine pollution : a 1988 perspective : proceedings of a symposium on marine pollution held at the Muizenburg Pavilion under the auspices of the Dept. of Water Affairs ... (et al.) (AGS Moldan & JH Ridder, eds., 1989) **GC1081.M33 1989 STRI.**

Molecular biology of Iridoviruses (G. Darai, ed., 1990) **QR401.M65 1990X STRI.**

Native orchids of the eastern Caribbean (J. Kenny, 1988) **QK495.O64K34 1988 STRI.**

Neutral models in biology (MH Nitecki & A. Hoffman, eds., 1987) **QH324.8.N47 1987X STRI.**

Parasitoid insects = insectes parasitoides ; European workshop, Lyon, September 7-10, 1987 (M. Bouletreau & G. Bonnot, eds., 1988) **QL463.p22 1987 STRI.**

Predicting breeding values with applications in forest tree improvement (TL White & GR Hodge, 1989) **SD399.5.W47 1989X STRI.**

Progress in botany = Fortschritte der Botanik, v.51 (H.-Dietmar Behnke et al., eds., 1974-)

Speciation and its consequences (D. Otte & JA Endler, eds., 1989) **QH83.S685 1989X STRI.**

Taxonomy and ecology of the jumping plant-lice of Panama (Homoptera, Psylloidea) (RG Brown & ID Hodgkinson, 1988) **QL526.2.P2B76 1988X STRI.**

Tula of the Toltecs : excavations and survey (DM Healan, ed., 1989) **F1219.1.T8T92 1989 STRI.**

Understanding chimpanzees (PG Heltne & L. Marquardt, eds., 1989) **QL737.P96U56 1989X STRI.**

The world of learning, 1990. Ref **AS2.W6 1990 STRI.**

**Makes You Think**

taken from the AOU Newsletter

An English egg collector had his collection of 26,871 eggs seized and was fined nearly 10,000 pounds. Action was brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. He claimed his collection was inherited or bought.. Some eggs were said to be of rare species. He was described as "a serious menace" with "something akin to an obsession." The sensationalized newspaper accounts do not indicate when or where most of the eggs were taken or species coverage. The confiscated collection was to be offered to the British Museum. Yet the facts are:

- on the average this (collection) is 3 eggs per species of bird in the world;
- a 1965 British study estimated 2.5 million birds/year killed by cars on British roadways.

**Humor**