

# STRI newsletter

JUNE 22, 1990

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 25

## SEMINARS

### Tupper Center Auditorium

Tuesday, June 26, noon seminar speaker will be Truman P. Young, University of California at Davis.

#### *The evolution of semelparity in Mount Kenya lobelias.*

#### Abstract

Two species of giant rosette plants in the genus *Lobelia* are common in the alpine zone of Mount Kenya. *Lobelia telekii* dies after first reproduction (is semelparous) and *L. keniensis* flowers repeatedly (is iteroparous). Two models of the evolution of semelparity were tested, support for only one of which was found. A simple mathematical model describes the demographic conditions that have favored the evolution of semelparity in *L. telekii*. In the dry sites of *L. telekii*, survivorship between reproductive episodes would be so low that reproduction is maximized by a single, massive, fatal reproductive episode.

Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m. Alan Smith will give a scientific staff seminar. Refreshments will be served.

#### *Modes and mechanisms of adaptation in tropical forest understory plants.*

#### Abstract

The environment of the tropical moist forest understory varies greatly in time and space. Understory plants respond to this variation at the single leaf, whole plant and population levels. These adaptations can involve morphological, physiological and/or life history characters.

#### NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, July 3, Truman Young, will give another seminar on--

#### *Mpala Ranch and research in dry highland ecosystems in Kenya.*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Brian Bock, Wilmington College, June 14 - 28, to continue iguana studies on BCI.
- Mark Toles, Yale University, June 23 - August 24, to work with K. Kubzdela on BCI.
- Matt Stoelting, Bermuda Biological Station, June 25 - July 23, to assist in the collection of environmental and biological samples for chemical analysis of hydrocarbons for the Oil Spill Project.
- Wolfgang Nentwig, University of Bern, Switzerland, and assistant C. Manhart, June 26 - July 14, to work on studies of tropical spider communities in Gamboa.
- Gerhard Zotz, Universität Würzburg, West Germany, June 27 - October 30, to work on the physiological and biochemical characteristics of tropical plants with K. Winter on BCI.

### Departures

- ◆ June 17 - July 29, Ofelina Brown, research assistant, to attend the agroecology OTS course in Costa Rica.
- ◆ June 19 - September 1, Roberto Ibañez, STRI Predoctoral Fellow, to the University of Connecticut to consult with advisors and work on data analysis.
- ◆ June 25 - July 7, Stanley Rand, staff scientist, to attend the 4th International Congress on Systematics and Evolutionary Biology at College Park, MD, and on official business at the Smithsonian Institution.
- ◆ June 28 - July 11, Nancy Knowlton and June 28 - July 8, Jeremy Jackson, staff scientists, to attend the 4th International Congress on Systematics and Evolutionary Biology at College Park, MD, and on official business at the Smithsonian Institution.
- ◆ June 29 - July 8, Haris Lessios, staff scientist, to attend the 4th International Congress on Systematics and Evolutionary Biology at College Park, MD.

### On Leave

Brian Keller, June 22 - July 3

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Official Purchases at AAFES Stores

Effective immediately purchase orders for AAFES (Army & Air Force Exchange Service) stores of large quantities of items must be submitted to the Corozal Main Exchange Office. Processing of purchases may take as long as 35 days. A minimum purchase order of \$25.00 will be required. Purchase of small numbers of items will continue as in the past.

### BCI Journal Club

The journal club of BCI will meet Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. Discussion will begin with a critique of HATCHER, B.G. 1990. CORAL REEF PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY: A HIERARCHY OF PATTERN AND PROCESS. TREE 5: 149-155. A launch will leave the Gamboa dock at 5:35 p.m. and return from the island at 9:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please contact Maritza Concepción at 52-2124.

### Schedule for Issuing New ID Cards

The new type of Smithsonian ID cards will be issued to all STRI employees and visitors who stay at STRI more than one month. Visitors who are here for less than one month will receive the old type (yellow) ID cards.

Photo Department personnel will have the photo ID machine at Tupper and Naos facilities on the following days. All employees and visitors who have not yet been photographed for their new ID are requested to arrange to get them on these days. Bring your old ID.

For people from Tupper, Tivoli, Library and Gamboa:

**WHERE:** Room 510, Tupper Building  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 26  
**TIME:** 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

For the people from Naos, Surfside and Galeta:

**WHERE:** Naos  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 27  
**TIME:** 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

### Driving in Panama

The Panama Transit Authority has begun to issue *Tourist Driving Permits*. Under Panamanian law, foreign drivers' licenses are valid for only 30 days after date of arrival in Panama. If you need to drive a vehicle after that period of time, you are advised to obtain this permit from:

Transit Authority  
 (Intersection of Gaillard Highway & Frangipani Road)

ATTN: Magda Hudson  
 Tel: 62-6496/97

From 8:00 a.m.-12:00 and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Prerequisites: \$20.00, passport, immigration permit, driver's license from country of origin, 2 photos.

NOTE: If you are Panamanian and your license has expired, you can get a one-month extension at no cost. (Licenses are not being issued at this time.)

### Open House for University of Panama

The University of Panama Biology Department is celebrating "La Semana del Biólogo" from June 25 - 29. As part of the activities, professors and students from the department will visit the Tupper exhibit *Parting the Green Curtain* on Tuesday, June 26 at 2:30 p.m. They will also visit the labs of Tupper resident scientists.

### STRI Publications

P. W. Glynn and L. D'Croz. 1990. Experimental evidence for high temperature stress as the cause of El Niño-coincident coral mortality. *Coral Reefs* 8: 181 -191.

### News from Naos

All STRI personnel and visitors can walk or drive through Ft. Amador to the Naos Marine Lab by showing a STRI ID at the guard post next to the Amador Officers' Club. Special visitors should continue to request an entry permit from the STRI Visitors' Office.

### STRI Contributions to Research

Please remember to send your corrections and/or additions to the 1989 STRI Contributions to Research to Maria Luz Calderon, Education Office, as soon as possible.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Curso de la OTS**

La Organización para Estudios Tropicales (OTS), en colaboración con la Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) ofrece un curso en español dirigido a los profesionales en puestos de toma de decisiones, que tienen a su cargo el manejo de recursos naturales u obras que incidan en ellos. El curso se ha concebido especialmente para funcionarios del sector público, aunque también pueden participar funcionarios del sector privado, preferiblemente sin formación previa en ciencias biológicas o afines, pero interesados en comprender y utilizar los principios ecológicos como parte integrante del proceso de toma de decisiones.

Los interesados en participar deben ser latinoamericanos, preferiblemente con un puesto en la administración pública y un grado universitario o equivalente.

El transporte internacional corre por cuenta de la OTS, la U.S. AID y la Fundación Tinker. Los fondos disponibles cubren el costo del curso y la cuota de participación.

Las solicitudes deben llegar a la OTS en Costa Rica a más tardar el día **16 de julio de 1990**.

**Organización para Estudios Tropicales**

Curso de Principios Ecológicos para la Toma de Decisiones y el Manejo de los Recursos Naturales en América Latina  
 Apartado 676-2050  
 San Pedro de Montes de Oca  
 Costa Rica, América Central  
 Tel: 40-66-96, Fax: 40-67-83

**Lost and Found**

A VHS tape was found in one of the STRI vehicles (license plate MI-66). The person who lost it should contact Marissa Crespo, Education Office.

Calendario Cultural - Junio						
Dom	Lun	Mar	Mie	Jue	Vie	Sab
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Radio**



- El Programa Panamá Cultural, bajo la dirección del Lic. Ariel Blanco, presenta informaciones culturales, artísticas, científicas y de interés general todos los domingos en Radio Mundial, de 12:00p.m. a 2:00p.m.

- En Primer Plano, Programa de Cultura, todos los lunes a las 9:00 a.m. en Radio Mundial.

**Teatro**



- El Grupo Tablas presenta, en el Teatro La Cúpula (23-7516) la obra *Historias Intimas del Paraíso*, de Jaime Salom, bajo la dirección de Norman Douglas. Con las actuaciones de Ralp Jorém, Sergio Gómez, Vivian Pérez y Berta Payán, del 14 de junio al 29 de julio, de jueves a sábado a las 8:00 pm y el domingo a las 4:00 pm.

- Café Teatro Las Malvinas (64-5540) *Los enredos del Amor*. Sábados y domingos 8 p.m.

- Grupo Takate presenta *La boda de Bertolt Brecht*, Auditorio Gil Blas Tejeira, 26-29 de julio, 7:30 p.m.

**Cursos y Conferencias** Departamento de Expresiones Artísticas (25-6166) anuncia matrículas para



Taller de escenografía, Taller de expresión verbal, Taller de actuación y curso de danza moderna a partir del 25 de junio; Taller de pintura y dibujo, 26 de junio y Taller de dibujo publicitario y técnica gráfica, 27 de junio.

- La Cruz Blanca Panameña invita a los jóvenes de 11 - 15 años a participar en el Comité Ambiental y de Naturaleza a Nivel Nacional (CANAAAN). Reuniones en el local de las Cruz Blanca, Sábados 9a.m.-12 m.

**Música y Fotografía** Recital de Guitarra, Jorge Bennett, Nueva Acrópolis (27-5892), 27 de junio, 7 pm.



• La Casa Museo del Banco Nacional presenta las obras de los participantes en el X Concurso Nacional de Fotografía del Club Fotográfico de Panamá, 12 al 26 de junio.



## STRI LIBRARY NEW BOOK LIST

Applications in coastal modeling (VC Lakhan & AS Trenhaile, eds., 1989) **GB451.2.A66 1989X STRI.**

Atmospheric ozone research and its policy implications : proceedings of the 3rd US-Dutch International Symposium, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, May 9-13, 1988 / organized by the Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America, and the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning, and Environment, the Netherlands. **TD885.5.O85A86 1989X STRI.**

The Biology of large African mammals in their environment : proceedings of a symposium held at the Zoological Society of London on 19th and 20th May, 1988. **QL731.A1B62 1989 STRI.**

The Butterflyfishes : success on the coral reef. **QL638.C48B88 1989X STRI.**

CRC handbook of symbiotic cyanobacteria (AN Rai, ed., 1990) **QR99.63.C73 1990X STRI.**

Cell separation in plants : physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology (NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Signals for Cell Separation in Plants (1988 : Turin, Italy) **QK725.N375 1988X STRI.**

Darwin without Malthus : the struggle for existence in Russian evolutionary thought (DP Todes, 1989) **QH375.T63 1989X STRI.**

Diapause and life cycle strategies in insects (VK Brown & I. Hodek, eds., 1983) **QL495.5.D5 1983X STRI.**

The Effect of diet on tumour development in animals (U. Mohr & JP Lewkowski, eds., 1989) **RC268.45.E44 1989X STRI.**

Environmental chemistry and toxicology of aluminum (TE Lewis, ed., 1989) **RA1231.A5E58 1989X STRI**

Environmental ecology : the impacts of pollution and other stresses on ecosystem structure and function (B. Freedman, 1989) **QH545.A1F74 1989X STRI.**

The Evolution of social systems (JP Scott, 1989) **QH371.S3984 1989X STRI.**

Experimental and conceptual plant pathology (RS Singh ... (et al.), eds., 1988) **SB731.E97 1988X STRI.**

Fertility and chromosome pairing : recent studies in plants and animals (CB Gillies, ed., 1989) **QH485.F47 1989X STRI.**

A Field guide to the birds of Britain and Europe 4th ed. (RT Peterson, 1983) **QL690.A1P48 1983 STRI.**

Freeze-drying biological specimens : a laboratory manual (RO Hower, 1979) **QH324.9.C7H68X STRI.**

Genetic effects of air pollutants in forest tree populations (F. Scholz et al., eds., 1989) **QK751.G38 1989X STRI.**

The Guild handbook of scientific illustration (ERS Hodges ... (et al.), eds., 1988) **Q122.G85 1988X STRI.**

The Human career : human biological and cultural origins (RG Klein, 1989) **GN281.K55 1989X STRI.**

An Introduction to the Coriolis force (HM Stommel & DW Moore, 1989) **QC880.4.C65576 1989X STRI.**

Invertebrate relationships : patterns in animal evolution (PG Willmer, 1990) **QL362.75.W55 1990X STRI.**

Ocean chemistry and deep-sea sediments (Open University course team, 1989) **GC111.2.O34 1989X STRI.**

The Pheasant (D. Hill & P. Robertson, 1988) **SF509.H64 1988 STRI.**

Physical principles of sedimentology : a readable textbook for beginners and experts (KJ Hs., 1989) **QE471.H87 1989 STRI.**

Plant population ecology : the 28th Symposium of the British Ecological Society, Sussex, 1987 (British Ecological Society, Symposium (28th : 1987 : Sussex), 1988) **QK910.B75 1987X STRI.**

Reproduction, genetics and distribution of marine organisms : 23rd European Marine Biology Symposium, School of Biological Sciences, University of Wales, Swansea (European Marine Biology Symposium (23rd : 1988 : Swansea, Wales), 1989) **QH91.A3E87 1988 STRI.**

Sexual reproduction of tree crops (M. Sedgley & AR Griffin, 1989) **SB359.3.S52 1989 STRI.**

Signs, songs, and memory in the Andes : translating Quechua language and culture (R. Harrison, 1989) **PM6308.6.H37 1989X STRI.**

Taxonomic revision of the Tribe Dahlbergieae in the Indian Subcontinent (K. Thothathri, 1988) **QK495.L52T48 1988X STRI.**

Tropical rainfall measurements (International Symposium on Tropical Precipitation Measurements (1987 : Tokai University), 1988) **QC925.82.I58 1987X STRI.**

Woman's role in economic development (E. Boserup, 1970) **HD6223.B68 1989 STRI.**

## Al Cierre...



Felicidades a los miembros del equipo de futbol del Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, quienes clasificaron ayer en la noche al ganarle 9 a 2 al equipo de *Logistical Support Division* de la Comisión del Canal de Panamá.