

STRI newsletter

September 6, 1991

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panama

No. 37

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

No noon seminar scheduled for September 10.

Next Week

Tuesday, September 17, noon seminar speaker will be Víctor Tejera, Universidad de Panamá.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Gene Morton, SI National Zoological Park, Sep 9-15, to work with Russell Greenberg on population dynamics of some understory insectivorous birds on BCI.
- Joao Vasconcelos-Neto, visiting fellow, Univ. Estadual de Campinas, Sep 9-21, to observe Panamanian Cassidinae.
- Kathleen Deagan, Univ. of Florida, Sep 9-22, to assist the INAC in making an evaluation of historical sites.
- Koji Nakamura, Kanazawa Univ., Japan, Sep 11, 1991-Feb 7, 1992, to work on population dynamics of herbivorous beetles in Panama.
- Matthew Gompper, Univ. of Tennessee, Sep 12, 1991-Sep. 1992, to start his predoctoral fellowship about the importance of genetic relatedness to the exhibition of social behavior in the coati (*Nasua narica*) at BCI.

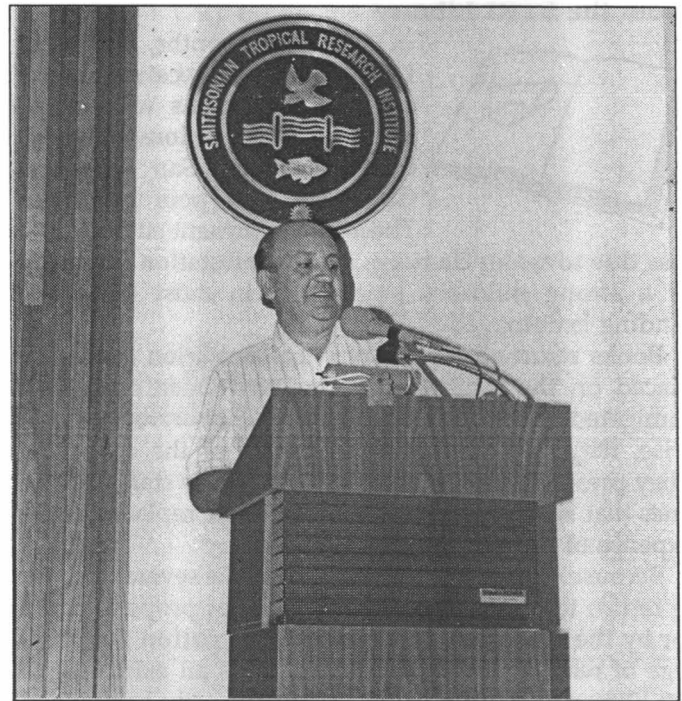
Departures

- Roberto Ibañez, predoctoral fellow, Sep 5-Oct 5, to Storrs, Connecticut, to defend his doctoral dissertation.
- Haris Lessios, Staff Scientist, to Lecce, Italy, Sep 7-21, to attend the 3rd. Colloquium on Echinoderms.
- Egbert Leigh, Staff Scientist, to Paris, France, Sep 7-18, to participate in the UNESCO Symposium in Food and Nutrition on the Tropical Forest.
- Ira Rubinoff, Director, Sep 10-23, on official business to Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institution.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

From the Security Office ••• Para su Seguridad

Various coworkers have been assaulted while driving their vehicles on National and Frangipani Avenues. They stopped because someone suddenly crossed in front of them. When they braked, they were attacked by another individual, supposedly in combination with the first. We recommend not using these avenues, but in case you have to, please avoid stopping and be alert to persons approaching your car. Keep your doors and windows locked at all times.



Rodrigo Games, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica, gave a seminar on an innovative way to study biodiversity and preserve nature: using an army of parataxonomists, on Friday August 30 ••• Rodrigo Games, del Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, dictó un seminario sobre una nueva forma de estudiar la biodiversidad, y conservar la naturaleza, usando un ejército de parataxónomos, el viernes 30 de agosto. (Foto: C.C. Hansen)

Varios funcionarios de STRI han sido asaltados mientras conducían sus vehículos por la Avenida Nacional o la Avenida Frangipani. En general se han detenido para no atropellar a una persona que de repente se les atraviesa y entonces han sido atacados por otra persona, supuestamente en combinación con la primera. Recomendamos no transitar por estas avenidas o si tiene que hacerlo evite parar y esté alerta a cualquier persona que se le acerque al auto. Mantenga siempre las puertas trancadas y los vidrios cerrados.

Addition

STRI presentations at the AIBS Meetings also included: Paul Marino and Noris Salazar Allen. University of Delaware, Newark, DE and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The influence of light gaps and degree of exposure on the species composition of epiphyllous bryophytes growing on two species of understory shrub in a lowland tropical moist forest in Panama.

From the STRI Library



In the past months, the STRI Library has been receiving books charged to persons who work/live on Barro Colorado Island, Gamboa, Naos, San Blas and Galeta, in very poor condition.

These books present either a total loss due to water damage, a high infestation by molds or a strong mildewy smell and, in most cases, the binding is damaged.

Books returned in this physical condition cannot be placed on the stacks until they have been dried and fumigated in the SIL Conservation Laboratory; otherwise, they will contaminate the rest of the collection. They present a health hazard to the library staff, and the ones that have water damage have to be replaced at the expense of the borrower.

Because of these situations, books take several months to return to circulation. If books are not properly cared for by the borrower, it denies another patron the privilege of reading the material, and adds an extra cost to the library budget. This situation can easily be avoided by keeping the books in a well ventilated room (or air conditioned laboratory, if available) with some sunlight, by not taking them out to the field, and by returning the book by its due date.

We will appreciate your attention and cooperation in helping to maintain an accessible and well-kept collection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations

To Mónica Medina who received a fellowship from the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, to conduct doctoral studies.

Audubon Talk

On September 12 there will be a two part presentation by Lorna and Dodge Engleman at 7:30pm at the PCC Training Center. Lorna Engleman will speak on the impact of a growing population on Panama's birds, and Dodge Engleman will talk on Migratory Birds and their Wintering Habitat in Panama.

Asistencia en la Búsqueda de Financiamiento para Investigación

SIMBIOTA es una organización no lucrativa que tiene la finalidad de asistir a biólogos de campo y conservacionistas de América Latina, en encontrar fondos para sus propios proyectos de investigación. Sus servicios incluyen:

- Crítica preliminar de manuscritos: Se revisa preliminarmente la propuesta y posteriormente se envía a científicos bilingües que estén familiarizados tanto con el tema en cuestión como de las expectativas de las fundaciones.
- Listado de Fundaciones: Se cuenta con una lista de fundaciones potenciales que apoyarían proyectos en las áreas de biología, ecología y conservación. Esta lista puede ser enviada a toda persona que la solicite. SIMBIOTA ofrece sus servicios son gratuitamente. Para mayor información sobre los servicios de SIMBIOTICA o para ofrecerse como voluntario para la revisión de propuestas, favor comunicarse con Conrad Vispo, Secretary SIMBIOTA, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Posición Abierta

El Programa Regional en Manejo de Vida Silvestre para Mesoamérica y el Caribe de la Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica anuncia la apertura del concurso de antecedentes para el puesto de Director. Los aspirantes deben tener los siguientes requisitos:

- grado mínimo maestría de vida silvestre, recursos naturales o campo afín (deseable doctorado). Los títulos y grados deben estar debidamente equiparados para aquellos postulantes con títulos obtenidos fuera de Costa Rica.
- experiencia mínima de tres años en programas de conservación y manejo de vida silvestre en América Latina.
- dominio del inglés y el español.

El salario será asignado de acuerdo a los atestados del solicitante. La persona seleccionada será nombrada por un período de 3 años. Deberá estar disponible para iniciar su labor entre noviembre de 1991 y enero de 1992. Los interesados deberán enviar antes del 1ro. de octubre de 1991 su *curriculum vitae* indicando sus perspectivas salariales a: Director, Programa Regional de Vida Silvestre, Apartado 1350, Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica, C.A.. Tel: 06-377039. Fax: 06-377036.

Segunda Edición de Bibliografía de Humedales

Recientemente fue puesta en circulación la segunda edición de Bibliografía de Humedales que produce el Programa Regional de Humedales de la UICN. Esta bibliografía consiste en un listado de publicaciones sobre humedales, disponibles en las oficinas del Programa.

El objetivo del proyecto es contribuir a solucionar uno de los problemas que enfrentan los técnicos y científicos que trabajan en esta disciplina en la región: la dificultad de encontrar publicaciones sobre su especialidad. Por eso, la Bibliografía ofrece a los lectores una lista de

publicaciones que sí están disponibles en la región. El Programa puede enviar esas publicaciones a las instituciones y personas interesadas, solicitando únicamente el costo de reproducción y envío del artículo. Para más información, consultar con Enrique Lahmann, Programa Regional de Humedales, Apdo 106, CATIE 7170, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

New Journal

The Indian Academy of Sciences has recently merged three journals namely, Proceedings: Animal Sciences, Proceedings: Plant Sciences and Journal of Biosciences. The merged journal has begun publication in 1991 under the name of Journal of Biosciences with a new international editorial board. They offer refereeing by a panel of internationally recognized experts, speedy publication of papers within 4 to 6 months of submission, no page charges, high quality reproduction of black and white and color photograph on art paper at no extra cost to authors, 100 free reprints to authors and additional reprints at reasonable cost. For more information contact Dr. Raghavendra Gadagkar at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, India, Tel: 91-812-340985, Fax: 91-812-341683.

Segundo Congreso Nacional de Acuicultura

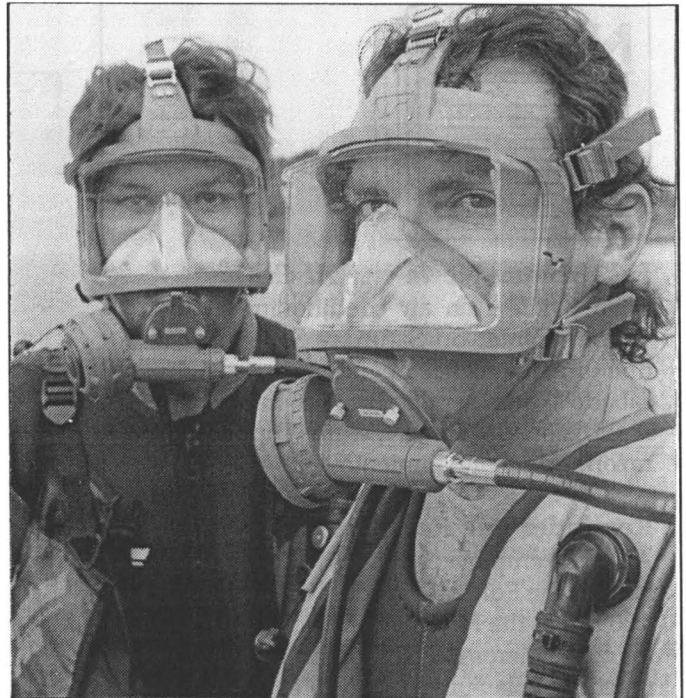
Como parte de la celebración de los quince años de creada la Dirección Nacional de Acuicultura del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario, se celebrará el Segundo Congreso Nacional de Acuicultura en la Ciudad de Panamá del 18 al 20 de noviembre de 1991. Este es el primer aviso. Se desea conocer el interés del personal de STRI en participar en este evento, así como otros planes que les gustaría ver incluidos en este programa. Los interesados pueden ponerse en contacto con el Ing. Hugo Pérez, Director Nacional de Acuicultura, MIDA - Santiago de Veraguas - Fax: 98-3761 y Tel: 98-3719.

Obituary

Robert B. Burke director of the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Protective Services in Washington D.C., died suddenly September 4, 1991, of pulmonary embolism. He was 62.

Mr. Burke had worked at the Smithsonian for more than 18 years. He also served as the overall supervisor for protective services at STRI.

Mr. Burke was a graduate of Howard University and a retired U.S. Army colonel. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



(Photo: C.C. Hansen)

RESEARCH UPDATE

by Steve Miller

The Oil Spill Project recently purchased two new Full Face Mask Diving Systems for its divers. These masks allow the divers to dive safely into polluted waters, such as the oil spill area, where contaminants can be picked up out of the water. Most commonly used SCUBA regulators have an air/water interface in the regulator. Some contaminants such as petrochemicals can be picked up in the breathing air at this air/water interface, and can be breathed in by the divers. To prevent this from occurring in the Oil Spill Project, two new Aga Divator MK II Full Face Mask Systems were purchased. These masks have a positive pressure system which eliminates the air/water interface; and, therefore, prevents the breathing air from being contaminated by pollutants from the water. Even though the oil spill occurred more than five years ago, oil can still be found washing out of the mangroves. Divers have reported smelling and tasting the oil when breathing air in the past. These new masks will help safeguard the divers, and are an example of STRI teamwork between field personnel and the Dive Office.

Segundo Congreso Nacional de Acuicultura

Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales. III Encuentro Entomológico Ecuatoriano, Quito, del 12 al 14 de diciembre de 1991.



Last Minute News ••• *Al Cierre*

There will be no air conditioning at the Tupper Center on Saturday September 7 due to maintenance operations ••• El día sábado 7 de septiembre no habrá aire acondicionado en el Centro Tupper por razones de mantenimiento.

Reminder ••• *Recordatorio*

All STRI employees are invited to participate in the Softball practices all Fridays at 4:30 pm at the Ft. Amador field ••• Todos los compañeros del STRI están invitados a practicar Bola Suave (*Softball*) en la cancha de Fuerte Amador todos los viernes a las 4:30pm.

From: *365 Ways to Save our Planet*

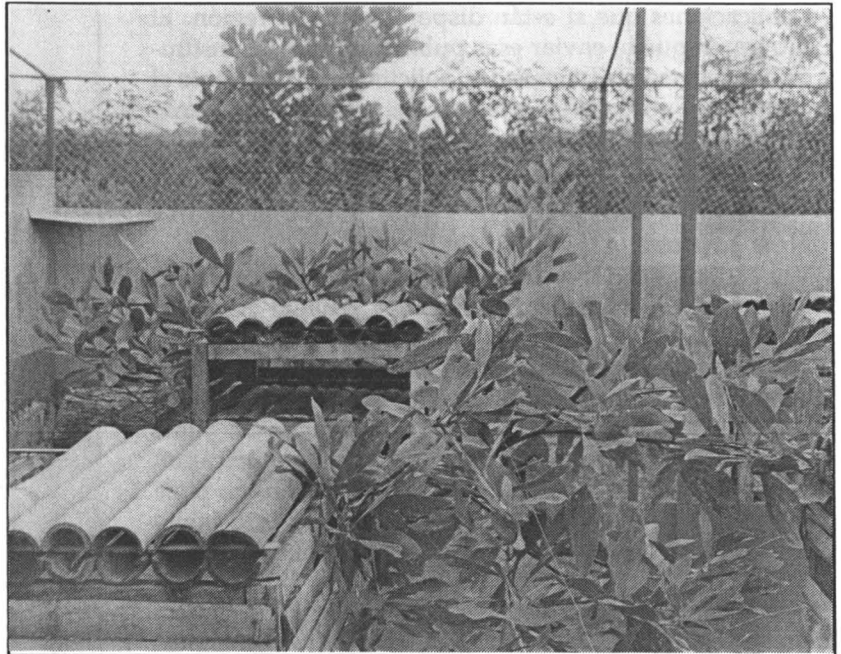
• *Page-a-Day Calendar* •

OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Baking soda removes tarnish from silver and stains from coffee cups, sinks, appliances and toilet bowls without harsh chemicals. What's more, one cardboard box takes the place of a shelf of ecologically undesirable plastic bottles and spray cans.

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Members of the STRI staff, invited by ANCON, had the opportunity to visit a pilot agroforestry farm at Rio Cabuya, Chilibre. They observed several projects, some based on STRI's research on alternatives to destruction, such as the breeding of captive iguanas in enclosures (see above), conducted by D. Werner in Panama ••• Miembros del personal del STRI, invitados por ANCON, tuvieron la oportunidad de visitar la finca experimental agroforestal de Río Cabuya en Chilibre. Entre los proyectos observados se encontraban algunos basados en investigaciones del STRI como la cría de iguanas en cautiverio (ver las jaulas en la foto) del programa de alternativas a la destrucción, llevado a cabo en Panamá por Dagmar Werner.

(Foto: J.G. Breebaart)



"That was incredible. No fur, claws, horns, antlers, or nothin' ... Just soft and pink."