

STRI newsletter

October 16, 1992

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 44

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Oct 20, noon seminar speaker will be Simmathiri Appanah, Forest Research Institute, Malaysia:

Insect Pollination and the Diversity of Dipterocarps

Abstract

The ecologist's rumor mill has it that new data will soon reinstate the dipterocarp forests of Southeast Asia as including the most species rich tropical rain forests in the world, thus overturning Al Gentry's 1988 strike for the Amazon of more than 300 tree species per hectare. High diversity in Malaysian rain forests is inevitably associated with the omnipresence of the family Dipterocarpaceae with its more than 380 species of tree in Malaysia, 180 of them in the single genus *Shorea*. A peculiarity of the dipterocarp forests is synchronous flowering in "mast" years, not only of the family Dipterocarpaceae, but also of at least 25 other families, all apparently constrained to flower at the same time as the dipterocarps. Dr. Appanah will examine the possible role of the unique pollinating systems of dipterocarp forests, particularly of the importance of thrips as pollinators, in generating the characteristic high species richness of these forests.



Jorge Ventocilla, Office of Education's environmental program specialist, was invited by the Kuna people to participate at Alto Ballano's congress in Ibedi last weekend, where he showed an exhibit of Kuna children's drawings with text related to the conservation and defense of their environment ••• Jorge Ventocilla, especialista en medio ambiente la de Oficina de Educación fue invitado a participar en un encuentro de la población Kuna en Ibedi, Alto Ballano, el pasado fin de semana, donde presentó una exhibición de dibujos y textos de los niños Kunas relacionados a la conservación y defensa de su medio ambiente.

(Foto: Lois Iglesias)

BCI SEMINARS

On Wed, Oct 21, at 7:30 pm, Bambi Seminar speaker will be Frank Ewers, Michigan State University.

Biology of Vines

On Thu, Oct 22, at 7:30 pm, the game-wardens seminar will take place, as it was postpone from Oct 15 to this date.

To arrange transportation to BCI please contact Vielka Liao.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Lucy Dorick, development officer at Washington, Oct 18-24, to meet with various persons at STRI and discuss plans and activities.

- David Roubik, staff scientist, Oct 20-28.
- Matthew Hisley external consultant for COMSUL, Oct 21-24, to work with Francisco Rivera on telecommunication analysis between Panama and Washington D.C.
- Ted Tanaka and Emmy McHale from Green Planet, Oct 21-26, to visit STRI facilities and meet with various staff members.
- Cheryl Morrison, Florida State Univ, Oct 21-Nov 24, to work on the study of snapping shrimp, *Synalpheus*.

Departures

- David West, Oct 19-30, to Delaware and Washington, D.C. on official business.
- Ira Rubinoff, STRI director, Oct 18-28, to Washington, D.C. on official business.

Congratulations ••• Felicitaciones

To Yves Roisin and Denise Thorin on their recent wedding ••• A Yves Roisin y Denise Thorin, quienes celebraron su matrimonio en Bruselas el día 3 de octubre y luego en Santafé de Bogotá el 2 de noviembre.

Condolencias

A Milton García, por la reciente muerte de su madre, Haydeé Juliao de García.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**Combined Federal Campaign**

This year, the Smithsonian Institution's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) will run from Oct 8 through Nov 30. The 1992-1993 CFC theme is *All We Need is You*. The CFC is provided as a service to Smithsonian employees so that annual charitable giving is convenient and efficient. Last year, the National CFC raised over \$30,000,000. Of this amount, Smithsonian staff in the National Capital Area donated a record of \$256,443, to CFC-affiliated agencies and participated at a 28.5 percent rate. For more information see your bulletin board or contact the Office of Human Resources at STRI.

OPORTUNIDADES DE ENTRENAMIENTO

El Servicio Informativo y Cultural de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos se complace en anunciar el programa de becas Hubert H. Humphrey para 1993.

El programa de intercambio profesional ofrece un año de experiencia profesional combinado con oportunidades académicas y profesionales. Programa sin miras a título académico. Beca completa.

Dirigido a profesionales en posiciones de liderazgo con distinguido expediente de cargos profesionales.

Las becas son otorgadas competitivamente a candidatos de los sectores públicos y privados, con un compromiso al servicio público. El programa enfatiza las áreas de planificación y manejo de recursos naturales y del ambiente; análisis de política pública y administración pública; desarrollo económico.

Los requisitos indispensables para este programa son: ser ciudadano panameño residente en el país. Panameños con doble nacionalidad o con residencia en los Estados Unidos no serán considerados. El candidato debe poseer un título universitario. Dominio del idioma inglés y tener un puntaje reciente del examen TOEFL.

Los interesados en este programa pueden retirar las solicitudes en las oficinas de la USIS ubicadas en el segundo piso del edificio Torre Miramar, ubicado en la Avenida Balboa y calle 39. La fecha límite de entrega de las solicitudes es el 25 de noviembre de 1992.

Simbiota

Potential Funding Sources for Neotropical Field Biologists & Conservationists available for consultation at the Office of Education, STRI.

POSITION AVAILABLE**Pacific Southwest Research Station**

Is seeking a Director for the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry located in Honolulu, HI. This position is responsible for directing a \$2 million program of ecological research in the tropical islands of the Pacific.

Position: Supervisory Biological Scientist, GM-0401-15, permanent, full time. **Salary:** GM-15, \$64,233.00 Per Annum (plus 22.5% Cost of Living Allowance). **Location:** Pacific Southwest Research Station, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Honolulu, HI. **Duties:** Directs a large, complex, and multidimensional research effort for the Forest Service in the Pacific. **Qualifications:** Applicants must have completed all requirements for a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree in a biological science or related discipline and one year of specialized research experience equivalent to the GS/GM-14 level. In addition to the above, applicants must meet the following selective factors: Knowledge of tropical ecosystem research, skill in developing technology and the ability to integrate and coordinate. **Evaluation:** Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of their knowledge, skills, and abilities as indicated on the SF-171, publications, abstract of Ph.D., and educational achievement. **For more information** please contact the Office of Education, STRI or write to Pacific Southwest Research Station, P.O. Box 245, Berkeley, CA 94701, ATTN: Dawn Hayhurst.

STRI NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Parker, Geoffret G., Smith, Alan P. and Hogan, Kevin P. 1992. "Access to the Upper Forest Canopy with a Large Tower Crane." *BioScience* 42(9): 664-
Weil-Machado, Ernesto F. 1992. Genetic and Morphological Variation in Porites (Cnidaria Anthozoa) Across the Isthmus of Panama. Ph.D. Thesis. The University of Texas at Austin.

Lost

Mark Moffett from Harvard University, lost 6 rolls of Velvia films around June 1992. If someone finds them, please contact Maria Morello, Visitor's Services Offices, Tupper Center.

STRI BUDGET

by Gretchen Sotomayor

For those working for the federal government, each October usually signifies a fresh start with a new budget. But for STRI budget analyst Leopoldo León, this month signifies an end to budget preparations that started 18 months ago. For León, who during the year juggles plans for three budgets, the preparation and tracking of a budget is a long and sometimes frustrating process.

In its travels, the budget must clear many gates of approval—from the SI to Congress—and reductions are astonishing. For example, of the more than \$3 million in increases STRI requested this year, the Institute received only 7 percent.

"You can see it's a very frustrating process for the people involved. I look at it positively—something is better than nothing," León said.

For the fiscal year 1993 budget, requests were reviewed at STRI in March and April of 1991 before being sent to the Smithsonian Institution (SI), then routed to the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and finally introduced to Congress in January 1992. At each office, cuts are usually made, though Congress has the power to reinstate parts of the budget eliminated by SI and OMB in the form of "add-ons."

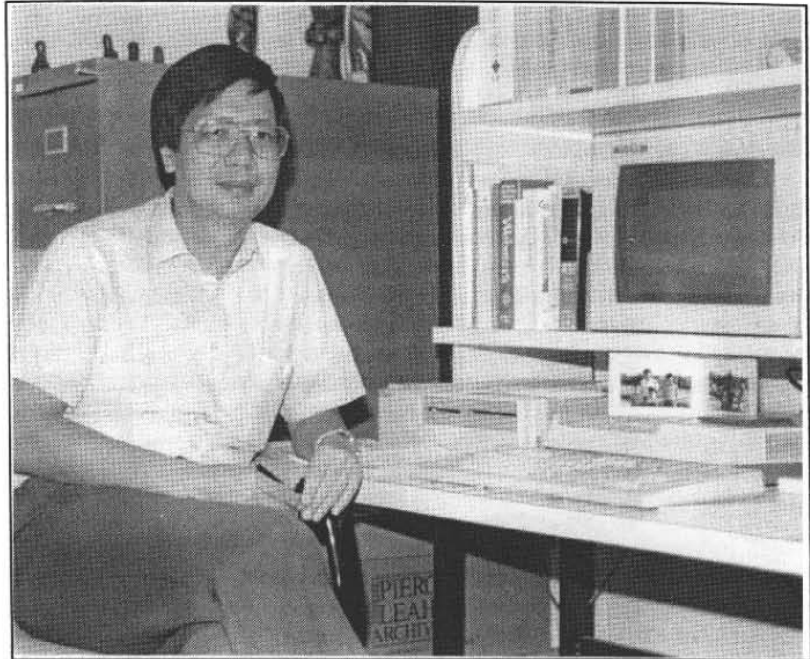
"It's the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches," León said. One "add-on" by Congress considered a success by STRI was the establishment of STRI's Global Change Program, struck from the budget in an earlier elimination stage but revived by Congress in the fiscal year 1990 budget.

León's role in the budget process focuses on requests for increases to STRI's budget, which are then "added" to STRI's prior year's budget, or the base. If, for some reason, no increases are approved one year, STRI could continue to operate on its base, but financially it would not be an easy year, he said.

If no further cuts are made internally by SI to STRI's 1993 budget, increases approved for this fiscal year include the funding of additional staff and equipment for STRI's Global Change Program, support for personnel associated with the new research vessel, and increases aimed at improving safety and security standards at STRI.

"STRI has been successful in getting increases for new programs, but... we don't get increases for things we already have," such as promotions and step increases for personnel, he said. Fund for the step increases and promotions have to be pulled from other sources, he added.

"Salaries—that's one of our highest costs of operations," León said, adding



Leopoldo León, Budget Analyst, STRI ••• Leopoldo León, Analista de Presupuesto del STRI

(Foto: A. Montaner)

that last year, 75 percent of the budget was dedicated to salaries and benefits. Also, inflation is not factored into this year's budget, and STRI will have to cover the difference in projected and rising costs of items.

Once STRI receives word of budget approval, the budget will be divided among scientists and departments. During the year, most people manage to spend the majority of their budgets, but many have a few dollars left at the end of the year in September, León said. Those straggling dollars from all departments are combined into a pot of money identified as the "year end." This money is used to purchase items not included in the original budget, and department and scientists' "wish lists" are reviewed and prioritized before selecting what items are in greatest need, he said.

"You are making adjustments constantly from one year to the next... it's a dynamic situation," León said. "We will always have more needs than money."

Though the federal budget for Fiscal Year 1993 was approved by Congress on Oct. 5, the details of the STRI budget will not be available for another three to four weeks.

Due to SI internal reductions, the budget to be assigned to STRI may still change, said STRI director Ira Rubinoff.

"Because of the institutional downsizing in D.C., it's not clear how much of the new funds will be available for this year," Rubinoff said, adding that he expects to receive word on any changes to the budget from SI by early November.

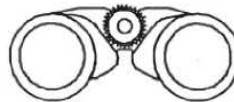


This Friday at 4 pm, the new STRI bookstore will be inaugurated. Ana María Ford, in the photo, has been in charge of the bookstore for almost three years now ••• (Foto: A. Montaner)

FOR THE BIRD WATCHERS

List of birds sighted from the grounds of the former Gamboa Country Club
2 March 1992

1. Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*)
2. Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*)
3. Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)
4. Southern House-Wren (*Troglodytes musculus*)
5. Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*)
6. Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)
7. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
8. Great-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*)
9. Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)
10. Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*)
11. White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)
12. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)
13. Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*)
14. Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*)
15. Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)
16. Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)
17. Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)
18. Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)
19. Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
20. Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila aurita*)
21. Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)
22. Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)
23. Blue-black Grassquit (*Volantinia jacarina*)



24. Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
25. Plain colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*)
26. Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)
27. Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)
28. Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*)
29. Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*)
30. Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
31. Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*)
32. Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*)
33. Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
34. Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*)
35. Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)
36. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)
37. Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*)
38. Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)
39. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
40. Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)
41. Neotropic (Olivaceous) Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*)
42. Southern Beardless Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)
43. Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)

