

# STRI newsletter

December 3, 1993

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 48

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, Dec 7, noon seminar speaker will be Bailey Kessing, University of Hawaii

*Tempo and Mode of Molecular Evolution in the mtDNA of Closely related Species*

Please see the abstract in your bulletin board.

## Next Week

Tue, Dec 14, noon seminar speaker will be Francisco Ayala, University of California, Irvine

*Molecular Genetics of Speciation*

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Tadao Matsumoto, Tokyo University, Dec 5-10, to conduct sociobiological studies of Neotropical social insects with Seigo Higashi, on BCI.
- Mark Mescher, University of Georgia, Dec 6-20, to survey Panamanian insect diversity with John Pickering, on BCI.
- Mary Ann Lindgren, Dec 9-16, on official business to STRI.

### Departures

- Paul Colinvaux, Dec 3-7, to Mexico City, Mexico, to attend an NSF sponsored workshop on ecosystem function of biodiversity in tropical forests.
- José Espino, Dec 9-12, on official business to SI, Washington D.C.
- Don Windsor, Dec 10-4 Jan, to Indianapolis, to attend meetings of the Entomological Society of America, and on vacation.

### New Baby

Congratulations to Gloria Maggiori for the birth of her grandson Roberto Ramón Vallarino, the son of Gloria Elisa and Ramón Vallarino, on Nov 29. He weighed 7.7 pounds.



*Ira Rubinoff presented Bonifacio de León with a 20-year service pin and Gabriel Abrego with a 10-year service pin, during a ceremony held at BCI on Thursday, Dec 2 ••• Ira Rubinoff hizo entrega de una medalla por 20 años de servicio a Bonifacio de León y de 10 años de servicio a Gabriel Abrego, ambos guardabosques, durante una ceremonia en Barro Colorado, el jueves 2 de diciembre.*

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### At the Tupper Center

- Mon, Dec 6 ■ Directors, scientific support, scientific council and administrative staff meeting, Large Meeting Room, 1pm
- Tue, Dec 7 ■ Legacy Program, Exhibit Hall, 8:00 a.m.
- Noon seminar by Bailey Kessing, Auditorium.
- Thu, Dec 9 ■ Administrative Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 2pm
- Fri, Dec 10 ■ Charla sobre el SIDA, Auditorium, 10:00 a.m.
- BCI Safety and Emergency Procedures Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 1:30pm.

### At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Dec 7 Universidad de Colón
- Thu, Dec 9 Escuela Los Chorros de Capira
- Sat, Dec 11 Universidad de Panamá: Programa de Maestría de Desarrollo del Sector Marítimo.

### Reminder ••• Recorderis

Wednesday, December 8 is the celebration of Mother's Day in Panama and is a holiday for STRI ••• El miércoles 8 de diciembre se celebra el Día de la Madre en Panamá y no hay trabajo en STRI.

### For Scanning Electron Microscope Users

During the month of December, users of the STRI's scanning electron microscope (SEM) are requested to schedule time (Tuesday evenings and all-day Saturday) with Raineldo Urriola, Tupper extension No. 295. Beginning in early January, scheduling will once again be through Dolores Piperno, Tupper extension No. 298. STRI researchers are reminded that the SEM is available free of charge to all scientists. There continues to be a charge of only 2.50 per photo.

### At Tupper Parking Lot

#### *En los Estacionamientos del Centro Tupper*

A 160 degree mirror was installed above the Tupper Parking lot exit gate. This mirror provides great visibility of the Portobello street. Please use the exit gate to leave the parking lot. The security guard will not permit vehicles to exit the parking area through the entrance gate between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated ••• *Un espejo de 160 grados ha sido instalado a la salida del área de estacionamiento del Tupper para permitir una amplia visibilidad de los vehículos que transitan en la calle Portobello. Los usuarios del Tupper deberán usar la salida del estacionamiento para salir. El guardia de seguridad no permitirá la salida de vehículos por la entrada del estacionamiento entre las 7:00 a.m. y 5:00 p.m. Agradecemos su cooperación.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Talent Show ••• *Gran Espectáculo de Talentos*



All talented members of the STRI community are invited to participate in the talent show during the STRI Christmas party, on Friday, December 17. For more information please contact Ricardo Racines at BCI or Audrey Smith of the organizing committee at

the Tupper Center ••• *Se invita a todos los talentosos de STRI a participar en el espectáculo de talentos que se presentará durante la Fiesta de Navidad de STRI, el viernes 17 de diciembre. Para mayor información, favor de comunicarse con Ricardo Racines en Barro Colorado o con Audrey Smith, del comité organizador en el Centro Tupper.*

### Burch Fellowship Nominations

The Smithsonian Institution received a generous bequest in 1989 from the late Dr. George E. Burch, Jr., to establish a "Fellowship in Theoretic Medicine and Affiliated Theoretic Sciences." The fellowship, with an award of approximately \$100,000, is offered every other year to an excep-

tional scholar and creative thinker, whose research holds the promise of generating significant discoveries and advances in knowledge. Nominated individuals may be in fields such as medicine, biology, physics, chemistry, as well as the social sciences and humanities, that bear on the health and social well-being of humankind. Nominations will be received by December 23rd. Please direct all your questions and nominations to Roberta Rubinoff, Office of Fellowships and Grants, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560. Tel. (202) 287-3271, or contact the STRI Office of Education at the Tupper Center.

### Scholarly Studies Grant

The following proposals were awarded by the Scholarly Studies Grant program:

- Llewellyn Hillis. "Molecular Analysis of Reef Building Algae, with emphasis on Calcareous Green Algae Separated by the Isthmus of Panama."
- Richard Cooke. "Life and Death at Cerro Juan Diaz, A 2000 Year-Old Precolumbian Village in Central Panama."
- A. Stanley Rand. "Evolution of Female Preferences."
- Egbert Leigh. "Population Limitation in a Neotropical Fruit-Eating Rodent: An Experimental Study."

### Center for Tropical Forest Sciences Awarded

The Center for Tropical Forest Science has just received a grant of \$520,000 from the National Institute of Health to conduct tropical forest research, including the installation of a 50-hectare forest Dynamics plot, in Korup National Park, Cameroon, in Central Africa. The CTFS project is part of a \$2 million International Cooperative Biodiversity Group program led by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research of Washington D.C. The program aims to foster the conservation of tropical forest biodiversity through the discovery and development of new drugs from rainforest plants and animals. Other members of the consortium include the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Nigeria-Nsukka, University of Yaounde (Cameroon), Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Shaman Pharmaceuticals. The program will include the collection of medicinal plants based on traditional ethnobotanical knowledge, isolation and testing of active compounds, and drug development by participating pharmaceutical companies. The CTFS component will assess the sustainability of harvest of 60 known medicinal woody plants that occur in the area of the plot. In addition the National Museum of Natural History Biodiversity Program and the SI-MAB Program will conduct conservation training courses in Cameroon. The program will also promote the cultivation by small farmers of the liana *Ancistrocladus korupensis*, source of a compound which has been found to inhibit the HIV virus, and which is endemic to the Korup area.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### University of Vermont

The Department of Zoology of the University of Vermont seeks applications for two positions. One will be filled at the tenured Associate Professor or tenure-track Assistant Professor level in Evolutionary or Behavioral Ecology. The ecologist may teach courses such as General Biology, Ecology, or Evolutionary Biology. The other position is for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Systematic Entomology. For this position the candidate should be someone who does studies on systematics of terrestrial arthropods (insects, spiders, ticks, etc.) and able to teach courses in General Biology and Entomology. Women scientist and members of ethnic minorities are urged to apply. Salaries are competitive and the faculty enjoy a full package of benefits. Send applications to Jos. J. Schall, Professor, Chair of the Search Committees, Department of Zoology, The University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405-0086. Tel. (602) 656-0448.

## NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Manokaran, N., Kassim, Abd. Rahman, Hassan, Azman, Quah, E.S. and Chong, P.F.** 1993. "Short-Term Population Dynamics of Dipterocarp Trees in a Lowland Rain Forest in Peninsular Malaysia." *Journal of Tropical Forest Science* 5(1): 97-112.
- Rand, A. Stanley and Dudley, Robert.** 1993. "Frogs in Helium: The Anuran Vocal Sac is Not a Cavity Resonator." *Physical Zoology* 66(5): 793-806.
- Roisin, Yves.** 1993. "Selective Pressures on Pleometrosis and Secondary Polygyny: A Comparison of Termites and Ants." In: *Queen Number and Sociality in Insects*: 402-421, edited by L. Keller. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Roubik, David W.** 1993. "Tropical Pollinators in the Canopy and Understory: Field Data and Theory for Stratum "Preferences". *Journal of Insect Behavior* 6(6): 659-673.



*Haris Lessios presentó una charla sobre la historia natural de los erizos de mar y sobre sus investigaciones en biología molecular con erizos de ambas costas del Istmo de Panamá a los participantes en el Curso de Interpretación Marina, en el Centro Marino de Culebra.*

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

## Interpretación Ambiental Marina

Durante los días 19 y 22 de noviembre, Argelis Ruiz Guevara y Cindy Martin de la Oficina de Educación, organizaron un curso de interpretación ambiental marina para el entrenamiento de docentes. El grupo de trece docentes que participaron servirá de guía a los muchos grupos estudiantiles que visitan semanalmente el Centro de Ciencias Marinas en Culebra, y Laboratorios Marinos de Naos desde 1992. Hasta la fecha, más de 6,000 estudiantes se han beneficiado de este programa de visitas interpretativas, las cuales han sido atendidas por Argelis Guevara, Cindy Martin y Arcadio Rodaniche. Como resultado de la gran acogida recibida por la comunidad en Panamá y del interior del país, especialmente la estudiantil, fue necesario aumentar el número de docentes para cubrir el intenso programa de visitas.

El curso se diseñó para entrenar a los participantes a interpretar su entorno natural y usar métodos de aprendizaje a través de vivencias prácticas. Como parte del entrenamiento, los estudiantes asistieron a conferencias por Haris Lessios, Nancy Knowlton, Amalia Herrera, Conrado Tapia, John Christy, Ursula Schober, y Georgina de Alba. El nuevo grupo de docentes para el Centro Marino de Culebra comenzará a laborar en enero, luego de cumplir tres sesiones de práctica en el campo.

## NEW STRI BOOKLIST

Arqueología de Cuba y de otras áreas antillanas / Centro de Antropología. F1769.A77 1991 STRI.

Butterflies of the Florida Keys / Marc C. Minno and Thomas C. Emmel. QL551.F6M55 1993X STRI.

The Economy of nature: a textbook in basic ecology / Robert E. Ricklefs. QH541.R54 1993X STRI.

Guardians of the land: indigenous peoples and the health of the earth / Alan Thein Durning. GF75.D875 1992X STRI.

Guide des algues des mers d'Europe: Manche/Atlantique - Méditerranée / Jacqueline Cabioc'h [et al.]. QK572.9.G94 1992 STRI.

Handbook of avian anatomy: nomina anatomica avium / edited by Julian J. Baumel ... [et al.]; prepared by the International Committee on Avian Anatomical Nomenclature, a committee of the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists. QL697.W79 1993Y STRI.

The Physiology of fishes / edited by David H. Evans. QL639.1.P49 1993X STRI.

Las Plantas y el hombre: memorias del Primer Simposio Ecuatoriano de Etnobotánica y Botánica Económica [sic] / editores, M. Ríos y H. Borgtoft Pedersen. SB108.E2S55 1990X STRI.

Spiders of Panama: biogeography, investigation, phenology, check list, key, and bibliography of a tropical spider fauna / by Wolfgang Nentwig, in collaboration with Bruce Cutler and Stefan Heimer. QL453.2.P2N46 1993X STRI.

Upwelling systems: evolution since the early Miocene / edited by C.P. Summerhayes, W.L. Prell, K.C. Emeis. GC228.5.U71 1992 STRI.

## Periodicals:

Annual Review of Anthropology, vol.22, 1993.

## From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet

## • Page-a-Day Calendar •

Obeying the speed limit makes sense for a lot of reasons, but one that's often overlooked is that it reduces the appalling death toll of wildlife on our highways—a million animals are killed every day, according to Humane Society estimates.

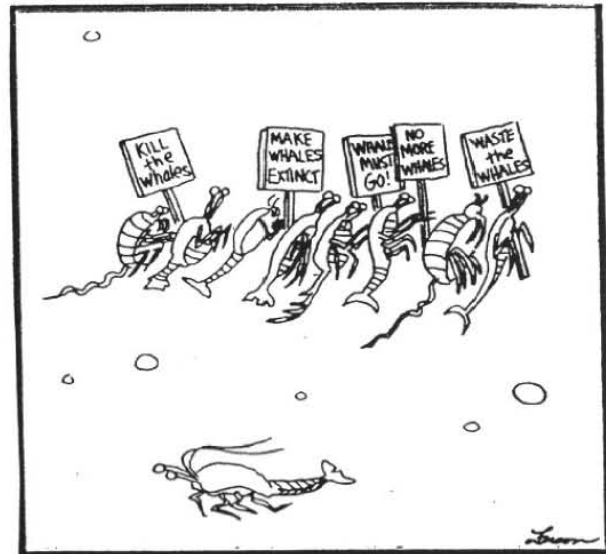
## MISCELLANEOUS

## Donations ••• Donaciones

During the Holiday Season we would like to share our caring with less fortunate. Therefore, we ask you all to donate canned goods, dried food, clothing and toys, new or in satisfactory conditions, for children. As in past years, this will be given to the needy of the outskirts of the city, through the *Templo San Antonio de Padua*, a Catholic Franciscan Church. Donations can be sent to Nereida Hernández, ext. 210, Tivoli, or to your facility secretary, no later than Dec 17. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated ••• STRI recibirá donaciones de comida enlatada o comida seca, juguetes para niños en buen estado, así como ropa en buen estado para los pobres en las afueras de la ciudad. Las donaciones se hacen a través del *Templo San Antonio de Padua*. Todas las donaciones pueden mandarse a Nereida Hernández, Tivoli, o a la secretaria de su lugar de trabajo. Agradeceremos su cooperación.

## For the Elderly ••• Para los Ancianos

British Aid Sale and Tea (for those who missed it at the Ambassador's lask week), at Lizzy Leigh's garage, 155 Gamboa, Sunday, 4pm. Books, records (English, Spanish, German, etc.), plants, cards and calendars, all to benefit old people in Panama ••• Lizzy Leigh recibirá libros, discos, plantas, tarjetas y calendarios (en inglés, español, alemán, etc.) el domingo 5 de diciembre a las 4pm, en el garaje de su casa en Gamboa, #155, para el beneficio de personas necesitadas de la tercera edad.



The plankton lobby