

# STRI newsletter

March 25, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 12

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Mar 29, noon seminar speaker will be Sean Nee, Oxford University  
*Theoretical Epidemiology and Conservation*

### Abstract

Both epidemiology and conservation biology are concerned with the eradication of species, with different goals in mind, of course. Whereas conservation biology is a new discipline, epidemiology is a mature one. The possibility is explored of mining the simple theoretical framework developed in epidemiology for insights which may be of use to conservation biology. In particular, epidemiology provides a simple estimate of the eradication threshold of a population, i.e. the minimum amount of a population's limiting resource required for that population to persist. Metapopulation theory also straddles both disciplines, and simple metapopulation models are discussed with respect to their implications for the consequences of habitat change on community structure.

## SPECIAL

Tuesday, Mar 29, Sean Nee, Oxford University will give a seminar  
*Inferences from Molecular Phylogenies*  
at the Tupper Center Auditorium, 5pm.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Michael May, Rutgers University at New Jersey, Mar 26-2 Apr, to study the seasonality of reproduction in tropical forest *Odonata*, on BCI.
- Roy Caldwell, University of California at Berkeley, and Pamela Jutte, to continue long-term monitoring of stomatopod populations, at Galeta.
- Rita Jordan, Jameen Alexander, Ruth Selig, Suzanne Pender and Iris Washington, from the Office of the Assis-



Singer and actress Olivia Newton-Jones visited the STRI Canopy Access System, at Parque Natural Metropolitano, with a crew from Beyond Productions, Australia. Shown are members of the TV crew, Olivia and husband Matt Latanzi, with Joe Wright. They also filmed at Barro Colorado Island ••• Olivia Newton-Jones, cantante y actriz, visitó el Sistema de STRI para Acceso al Dosel, en el Parque Natural Metropolitano, con un equipo de "Beyond Productions" de Australia. Aparecen en la foto miembros del equipo de TV, Olivia y su esposo Matt Latanzi, con Joe Wright. El equipo también filmó en la Isla de Barro Colorado. (Foto: A. Montaner)

tant Secretary for Science, Mar 26-30, to visit STRI facilities and consult with staff.

- Ryel, Utah State University, Mar 29-7 Apr, to work with W. Beyschlag, on the influence of leaf-cutting ants on light interceptions, and canopy photosynthesis in crown of tropical trees.
- John Barone, University of Utah, Mar 30-15 Dec, to do research on the maintenance of tropical forest tree diversity, at BCI.
- Richard Hanlin, University of Georgia, Apr 1-30, to conduct taxonomic studies of tropical ascomycetes, Apr 1-30.
- John Gamon, short-term visitor from the California State University, Apr 1-15, to carry out tracking photosynthetic activity with spectral reflectance, with Joe Wright at the Canopy Access System.

### Reminder ••• Recorderis

Friday, April 1, Good Friday is a STRI holiday ••• El viernes 1 de abril es Viernes Santo, y no hay trabajo en STRI.

**Departures**

- David Roubik, Mar 26-2 Apr, to La Paz, Bolivia, to consult with colleagues at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural.
- Harry Barnes, Lee Weight and Reynaldo Tapia, Mar 30, to assist with the arrangements of bringing the RV Urracá to Panama.
- Martin Moynihan, Mar 31, to France, to continue his research, and to Naples, Italy to carry out studies of *Octopus vulgaris* at the Stazione Zoologica.

**Leoncio Rodríguez, New Grandfather**

Congratulations to Leoncio Rodríguez, who became a grandfather, on Tue, Mar 15. His son Jose Leoncio and wife Liliana had a baby boy born prematurely weighed four pounds, and is in great shape!

**New Honors**

As a Senior Advisor of UNEP, Jorge Illueca, STRI Research Affiliate, was invited to collaborate in the preparation of UNEP's Regional Strategy for Latin American and the Caribbean 1994-1995 at a special programming meeting in Mexico City, January 19-21. He was also invited to participate in a UNEP-Organization of American States (OAS) special meeting on joint thematic programming in the area of International Freshwater Resources in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, Washington D.C., March 2-4.

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW****Delegation of Authority at BCI**

Daniel Millán will be on his honeymoon from March 24 through April 8. During his absence, Vielka Rodríguez will handle all the ordinary administrative business at the Island, including requisitions and reservations.

**At the Tupper Center**

- Tue, Mar 29
  - Noon seminar by Sean Nee, AUD.
  - Afternoon seminar by Sean Nee, Auditorium, 5pm.
- Thu, Mar 31
  - General Scientific Support Staff Meeting, Large Meeting Room, 1:30pm.
  - Office of Education Slide Show, Auditorium, 3pm.

Please note that the Tupper Center Conference Hall will be painted next week, and it will not be possible to schedule activities from Mon-Thu.

**At the Culebra Marine Reserve**

- Tue, Mar 29 *Cámara de Turismo de Panamá.*
- Wed, Mar 30 *Curundu Elementary School.*
- Fri, Apr 1 *Instituto de Hotelería y Turismo.*
- Sat, Apr 2 *Kobee Elementary School.*

**New Fees Reminder**

A review was recently made of the STRI fees, which had been in place since January 1991. As a result, some fees were increased to adjust for inflation or actual costs, and new fees were established for facilities and services which had not been contemplated before. The revised fees are effective April 1, 1994, and are applicable to all visiting and sponsored researchers. Copies of new fees are posted on the facility bulletin boards and are available on request.

**Reglas, Políticas e Instrucciones****para los Usuarios de Vehículos Oficiales de STRI**

Recientemente se repartió entre todos los empleados de STRI un documento en inglés sobre el uso de los vehículos oficiales titulado "Rules, Policies and Guidelines for STRI Vehicles Users." Este documento, que deben tener a mano todos los empleados de STRI, será traducido próximamente al español por la Oficina del Sub-Director Adjunto para Servicios de Apoyo Científico.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****International Geographic Union Regional Conference 1994**

The UGI announces its 1994's conference "Environment and Quality of Life in Central Europe: Problems of Transition, from 22026 August, Prague, Czech Republic. This conference, organized by Charles University of Prague under the auspices of Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, is entrusted by the International Geographical Union. Central Europe is the natural geographical focus of the Conference but it will include other perspectives as well. It will cover a wide range of both scientific and applied issues. It will be geared not only towards the geographical communities since its character will be widely interdisciplinary. Organizers expect about 2,000 participants from all over the world. UGI 1994 invites STRI to take part in this Conference and to present our activities. The scientific program will include 24 themes, followed by thematic exhibitions, panel discussions, and pre- and post- fieldtrips. For more information and application form, please visit the STRI Office of Education, at the Tupper Center.

## PRESENTATIONS

Aguilar, Salomón, Condit, Richard and Pérez, Rolando. 1994. "Estudios sobre las Especies de Uso Tradicional en una Comunidad Campesina en Panamá" In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 49.

Batista, Oriana, Kolman Connie and Birmingham Eldredge. 1994. "Análisis de la Diversidad del ADNmt de la Población Amerindia Kuna de Panamá." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 15.

Brenes R., Carlos, D'Croz, Luis, Kwieciński, Bogdan, Chaves C., Joaquín, Del Rosario, Juan and Tejada, Luis C. 1994. "Oceanografía de la Plataforma Continental del Pacífico de Centroamérica." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 44.

Fortunato, María Helena and Jackson, Jeremy E.C. 1994. "Desarrollo Larval y su Relación con la obrevivencia de las Especies." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 90.

Jaramillo, César, Ibáñez, Roberto and Solís, Frank A. 1994. "Una Especie Nueva de *Atelopus* (Amphibia: Bufonidae) de Panamá." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 102.

Ibáñez, Roberto and Rand, A. Stanley. 1994. "Informe Actualizado sobre el Seguimiento de Poblaciones de Anuros en Panamá Central." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 103.

Mejía, Mónica. 1994. "Influencia de la Luz sobre la Acumulación de Ácidos Orgánicos *Aechmea magdalenae*." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 45.



Group from Smithsonian Women's Committee and spouses gathered at the Tupper Center's Corotú Plaza during their recent visit to STRI, Mar 21-26. The group of fifteen met with staff and also visited Barro Colorado Island and Gamboa, the Parque Natural Metropolitano, Naos and Culebra and the San Blas Marine Station  
 ••• Un grupo de el Comité de Mujeres del Smithsonian y algunos de sus esposos se reunieron en la Plaza Corotú del Centro Tupper, durante su reciente visita a STRI, del 21 al 26 de marzo. El grupo de quince se reunieron con el personal, y también visitaron la Isla de Barro Colorado y Gamboa, el Parque Natural Metropolitano, Naos y Culebra, y la Estación Marina de San Blas.  
 (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Quintero A., Diomedes. 1994. "Biodiversidad de Insectos y Arácnidos en el Parque Nacional Darién: Inventario y Desarrollo de Base de Datos Computarizados." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 87.

Solís, Frank A., Ibáñez, Roberto and Jaramillo, César. 1994. "Distribución de las Serpientes Colubridae según la Fisiografía de Panamá." In: *XII Congreso Científico Nacional, 21, 22 y 23 de Marzo, Universidad de Panamá*: 99.

Please send titles of presentations, conferences and seminars at international or national symposia, conferences or meetings including author, co-authors, date and title of the meeting, to be published in the Newsletter, to Maria Luz Calderón, Tupper Center.

**REMINDER ••• RECORDERIS**

**One of Us ••• Uno de Nosotros**

One of our co-workers, José Núñez, from Barro Colorado is sick, and out of sick and annual leave. All who may care to donate any amount of annual leave to José, please fill out a Leave Donor Request form at the Office of Human Resources. More information with Maritza Perurena, at Tivoli ••• *Uno de nuestros compañeros de trabajo, José Núñez, de Barro Colorado, está enfermo y ha agotado todas sus horas de enfermedad y vacaciones por esta causa. A todos aquellos que quieran donar cualquier cantidad de horas de vacaciones a José, por favor acercarse o llamar a la Oficina de Recursos Humanos en Tivoli para llenar una aplicación para donar algo de sus vacaciones.*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Free Research Assistant**

Amy Rusev, "a fellow Biology enthusiast" is seeking an individual who would allow her to participate in any biological field, but preferably involving botanical studies, during the summer of 1994 (Jun 5-20 Aug), to gain work experience. She is presently studying her first year at Santa Barbara City College in California as Biology major. Her plans are to transfer to the University of California in San Diego and apply for the Tropical Biology Program. No financial expectations, but she only asks for room and board, and, if possible, the air fare.

**Looking for a Choffer • Busca un Chofer**

Catherine Potvin is looking for a choffer to bring children to school urgently. Please call 52-5284 ••• *Catherine Potvin necesita urgentemente un chofer para llevar niños al colegio. Favor de llamarla al 52-5284.*

**From: 365 Ways to Save our Planet**  
**• Page-a-Day Calendar •**

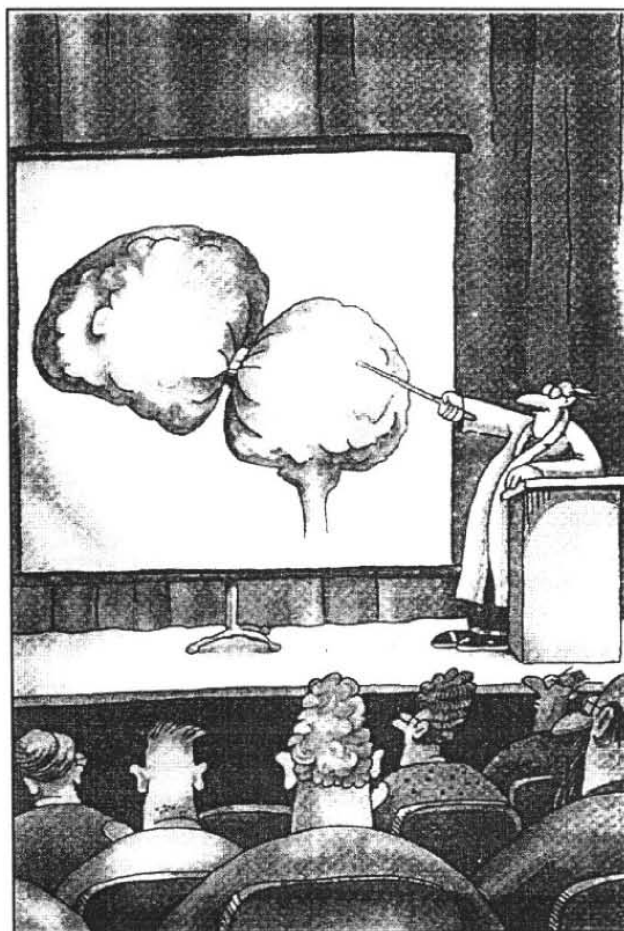
Even a pinhole leak in a water pipe can waste 170 gallons a day. Spot leaks by taking two water meter readings an hour apart, using no water between checks. If the reading changes, you have a leak worth fixing.

**For Sale ••• Se Vende**

Toyota Corolla XL (station wagon) 1992. A/C, radio-cassette Sony, excellent conditions (only one owner), 45,000 Km, \$8,500. If interested, please call Maria Bernal, at 26-1842, after working hours ••• *Toyota Corolla XL camioneta 1992. Aire acondicionado, radio-cassette Sony, excelentes condiciones (ha tenido un solo dueño), 45,000 Km, \$8,500. Si está interesado, favor llamar a María Bernal, al tel. 26-1842, después de horas de trabajo.*

**Gimnasia Psico Física**

La Gran Fraternidad Universal ofrecerá cursos de Gimnasia Psico Física (Yoga) en el Parque Natural Metropolitano de 8:30-9:30 am los miércoles, viernes y sábados. Instructora: María Bernal. Costo \$30 mensual.



Dr. Lundquist, at a noon seminar on compulsive thinkers, illustrates his brain-stapling technique.