

STRI newsletter

June 3, 1994

SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá

No. 21

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tue, Jun 7, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Srygley, University of Cambridge
Why Were Dinosaurs Warm Blooded?

Abstract

Endothermy is an energetically costly activity, however its evolutionary origin is a conundrum for biologists. Because endothermy evolved once in mammals and once in birds (dinosaurs?), we must look to other groups for an explanation of its origin. The two hypotheses proposed in the literature: 1) increased aerobic scope, and 2) niche expansion are insufficient to understand the selective forces on endothermy. A case study of owl butterflies in progress a Pipeline Road and a comparative analysis will be used to support this hypothesis and present gaps in the facts.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- David Tomblin, University of Wisconsin, Jun 5-Dec '95 to work with Gregory Adler on the population limitation in a tropical fruit-eating rodent, on BCI.
- Julie Fortin, Marjorie Lucas and Dalph Sand, SI Office of Human Resources, to give training seminars and consult with colleagues.
- Benjamin Wechsler and John Zadrosny, Princeton University, Jun 6-31 Aug, to work with Steve Hubbell's project: census of seedlings and small saplings in the BCI 50 ha. plot, on BCI.
- Bailey Kessing, new senior biological science technician at Naos, to start his appointment with STRI.

Departures

- Vielka Chang-Yau, Jun 4-12, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI Libraries.
- Jorge Ventocilla, Jun 4-13, to visit the National Zoological Park and partici-



Aurelio Virgo (center) and Milton Garcia (right) explain to visitors at BCI the new project set on the island of the effects of elevated atmospheric CO₂ concentrations on rainforest understory plants ••• Aurelio Virgo (centro) y Milton García (derecha) explican a visitantes en Barro Colorado el nuevo proyecto que se ha montado en la isla sobre los efectos de concentraciones atmosféricas elevadas de CO₂ en plantas del sotobosque tropical lluvioso.
(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- pate in a program for primary schools of the D.C. area and for the presentation of the English version of the Kuna children coloring book, funded by an Educational Outreach grant.
- Jeremy B.C. Jackson, Jun 6-3 Aug, to Basel, Switzerland, to work with Dr. P. Jung on fossil mollusks; to Marseille, France, to work on bryozoans at the Station Marine d'Endoume. Then on a short vacation.
- Joseph Wright, Jun 7-15, to Mexico, to attend meetings of the Association for Tropical Biology.
- Roberto Ibáñez, Jun 7-12, to Guadalajara, Mexico, to attend the Society for Conservation Biology/Association for Tropical Biology Joint Meeting.
- Ira Rubinoff, Jun 8-11 to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.
- Harry Barnes, Jun 10-18, to Ft. Lauderdale, FL, to attend meetings of the of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean directors, then to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.

On Leave

- Marcos A. Guerra, Jun 2-8.
- Maria Luz Calderón, Jun 6-8.

JUNE 6-10: ECOLOGY WEEK

1

JUNIO 6-10: SEMANA ECOLOGICA

New Honors

Roberto Ibáñez was selected among former fellows of the Biodiversity Support Program-World Wildlife Fund, to attend the Society for Conservation Biology - Association for Tropical Biology Joint Meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, and to present the results on the Amphibian Monitoring Project.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**At the Tupper Center**

- Mon, Jun 6 ■ Performance Appraisal Training, Conference Hall, 8:30am.
- Performance Based Actions Training, Conference Hall, 1:15pm.
- Tue, Jun 7 ■ Extension program for fellows and assistants, Large Meeting Room, 10:00am.
- Noon seminar by Robert Srygley, Auditorium.
- Wed, Jun 8 ■ Adverse Actions Training, Conference Hall, 8:30am.

At the Culebra Marine Reserve

- Tue, Jun 7 *Campamento Ecológico Centroamericano, Belize y Panamá*
- Wed, Jun 8 *Colegio Internacional Zek-Panamá*
- Thu, Jun 9 *Fort Davies Elementary School*
- Fri, Jun 10 *Instituto Bilingüe Simón Rodríguez*
- Sat, Jun 11 *Instituto de Hotelería y Turismo*

New Senior Biological Science Technician***Nuevo Técnico en Ciencias Biológicas***

Bailey D. Kessing was selected as the new senior biological science technician, to work with Harilaos Lessios in the molecular evolution laboratories at Naos. He will start working at STRI on Monday, Jun 13. Kessing received his M.S. in Zoology at the University of Hawaii, and his B.A. at the New College of the University of South Florida, Sarasota. Before coming to STRI he was working as a Science Professor at Maryknoll High School in Honolulu. He has worked as computer database consultant at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu and as research assistant at the University of Hawaii and the Pacific Biomedical Research Center. Kessing is a member of the Sigma Xi Society, the American Society of Zoologists and the National Speological Society. We welcome Bailey Kessing to the STRI community and wish him all the best ••• *Bailey Kessing*

fue seleccionado como el nuevo técnico en ciencias biológicas para trabajar en los laboratorios de evolución molecular con Harilaos Lessios en Naos, y empezará a laborar en STRI a partir del lunes 13 de junio. Kessing recibió el título de Maestría en el Departamento de Zoología de la Universidad de Hawaii y su licenciatura en el New College de la Universidad del Sur de Florida, en Sarasota. Antes de aceptar su nueva posición en STRI trabajaba como profesor de ciencias en la Secundaria Maryknoll en Honolulu. Ha sido consultor de base de datos en el Museo Bishop en Honolulu y asistente de investigación en la Universidad de Hawaii y el Centro de Investigaciones Biomédicas del Pacífico. Kessing es miembro de la Sociedad Sigma Xi, la "American Society of Zoologists" y la "National Speological Society". Deseamos darle la bienvenida a Bailey Kessing dentro de la comunidad de STRI y deseamos éxitos en su nueva posición.

Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente

5 de junio, 1994

En 1972, la Asamblea General de la ONU eligió el 5 de junio como Día Mundial del Medio Ambiente, por ser la fecha de la decisiva Conferencia de Estocolmo sobre el Medio Humano. Durante esta conferencia se formalizó por primera vez la preocupación internacional por el medio ambiente y se creó el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente PNUMA. Desde entonces, el 5 de junio se ha convertido en una oportunidad para celebrar motivos de esperanza y preocupación en casi todos los continentes. El tema del 5 de junio de este año será "Una Tierra: Una Familia". La Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, en colaboración con la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, el Parque Natural Metropolitano y el Instituto Smithsonian de Investigaciones Tropicales han organizado un ciclo de conferencias el 3 de junio en el Salón Las Oropéndolas, PNM, a partir de las 8:30 a.m. Los conferencistas incluyen a Aura Emérita Guerra de Villalaz, Magistrada de la Corte Suprema de Justicia (10:30-11:00 am), Rosa Elena de De la Cruz, del Ministerio de Planificación y Política Económica (11:00-11:30am), Alfonso Lavergne de la Asociación Panameña para el Planeamiento de la Familia (11:30-12:00) y José Agustín Espino, presidente de Technoserve (12:00-12:30pm). Todos están invitados.

USIS Panamá • Semana Ecológica

El Servicio Informativo y Cultural de los Estados Unidos (USIS), a través de su Programa de Medio Ambiente, se complace en invitarle a su evento anual para celebrar la semana ecológica. Este año contaremos con el valioso aporte de profesionales que disertarán sobre la materia

en Panamá y la presentación de videos especializados. Los asistentes recibirán el afiche oficial del Día de la Tierra 1994, e información especializada. Su participación en este evento le permitirá ponerse en contacto con otros profesionales, actualizarse y compartir sus experiencias. El programa, que se desarrollará de 8:30am-4pm en la Biblioteca Amador Washington el jueves 9 de junio incluye las siguientes conferencias:

- "Proyecto Manejo de Bosques Naturales del Este de Panamá", por Dionisio Batista, 8:45 am.
 "Importancia de los Recursos de la Cuenca del Canal de Panamá", por Juan H. Díaz, 10:30 am.
 "El Papel de los Medios de Comunicación en Asuntos Ecológicos" (vía satélite), por Thomas Super y Diane Mac Eachern, 12:00 m.
 "Ecología del Dosel de los Bosques Tropicales Lluviosos", por Gerardo Avalos, 2:00 pm.
 "Los Pro y los Contra del Ecoturismo" (vía satélite), por Elizabeth Boo y Priscilla Baker, 3:15 pm.
 Todos están invitados.

1994 Fellowships Granted at STRI

- Banks, David*: "Context Depending Nesting in the Sphecid Subgenus *Trypargilum* (Hymenoptera) and the Evolution of Male Nest Guarding Behavior."
Barone, John: "Herbivores and Tree Diversity: a Test of the Janzen-Connell Model."
Delgado, Juan: "Vocal Sac Functional Properties: Essential Elements of Anuran Sexual Selection."
González, Pedro: "Analysis of the Molecular Divergence in the Sea Urchin Geminate Species in Both Sides of the Panama Isthmus." Naos Island Laboratories.
Marini, Olindo: "Ant Transportation Services for Phasmid Eggs."
Rowan, Robert: "Analysis of Polymorphic Coral-Zooxantella Symbioses". Naos Island Laboratories.
Zeh, Jeanne: "Female Promiscuity as a Hedge Against Genetic Incompatibility."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scholarly Studies Program Awards • 1994

- Secretary Adams announced the fourteen Scholarly Studies awards for Winter 1994, among which are:
Eldredge Bermingham: "Historical Biogeography of West Indian Birds: An mtDNA Analysis."
Paul Colinvaux: "The Development of Amazonian Ecosystems: Core Funding of Amazonian Palynology."

Candidates for CIFOR's Board of Trustees

The Center for International Forestry Research (CiFOR) is seeking potential female candidates to its Board of Trustees. As an international research center within the CGIAR system, CIFOR has to take into consideration geographical, gender and professional balance in the composition of the board. CIFOR's Nominations Committee has stipulated that the potential candidates for membership should be preferably women, one originating in Asia, the other in North America. The Asian candidate should come from a developed Asian country since Tropical Asia is well represented in the present Board. Candidates should preferably be from the social or economic sectors. If anyone wishes to make nominations, please send them to Stanley Heckadon Moreno, STRI, before October 1994.

Volunteer Available

Alison Wilson is willing to work as a volunteer at STRI for fall and throughout the year. She has worked previously as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator at SI and has a B.A. in History from Washington University. Proficient in Lotus, WordPerfect and Microsoft Word as well as electronic communication. Experienced in basic computer programming in Turbo Pascal, Competent Spanish conversational skills. If interested please contact the STRI Office of Education at the Tupper Center.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Valdespino, Iván A.* 1993. "Notes on Neotropical Selaginella (Selaginellaceae), Including New Species from Panama." *Brittonia* 45(4): 315-327.
Villanueva-G., Roger. 1994. "Nectar Sources of European and Africanized Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) in the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico." *Journal of Apicultural Research* 33(1): 44-58.

CONFERENCES

International Bryological Conference

Tropical Bryophytes: Biology, Diversity and Conservation
 Mexico City, August 7-12, 1995

The International Association of Bryologists and Instituto de Biología, National University of Mexico announce the celebration of an international meeting on tropical bryophytes. The scientific program will include personal contributions, special features, field trips and a workshop on endangered bryophytes. In order to determine the number of potential participants and to make

preliminary arrangements, you must complete a form and send it to Claudio Delgadillo M., Instituto de Biología, UNAM, Apartado Postal 70=233, Del. Coyoacan, 04510 Mexico D.C. Mexico • Fax (525)550-1760. For a copy of the form and more information, please visit the STRI Office of Education at the Tupper Center.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Ornithological Monographs

Ornithological Monographs is seeking high-quality manuscripts in ornithology that are too lengthy as standard journal articles. Manuscripts should be comprehensive, multifaceted, exhaustive, based on long-term work, and/or provide a synthesis that is not possible in a shorter article. If you would like to discuss the suitability of your work as a monograph, contact John Hagan, editor, P.O. Box 1770, Mnomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345. Tel. (508) 224-6521 • Fax (508) 224-9220.

American Midland Naturalist

The *American Midland Naturalist* publishes research from any subdiscipline of ornithology without regional restriction. They also have the ability to publish reviews and longer articles. AMN is an interdisciplinary journal of biology now in its 85th year of publication. For more information contact C. Ray Chandler, Associate Editor for Ornithology, Department of Biology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

POSITIONS FOR FIELD ASSISTANTS

Two field assistants are needed for study of the breeding biology of Monteiro's Hornbills utilizing nest boxes at a nature reserve near Windhoek, Namibia (southwest Africa). Positions run Dec 1994-April 1995. Topics under investigation include hatching asynchrony/-brood reduction and sperm storage/sperm competition. Field assistants will monitor nests, assist with egg/-brood manipulations, measure and take blood samples from females and chicks, and perform extensive observations of male provisioning behavior. Roundtrip airfare to Namibia and modern housing in Windhoek provided. Small monthly stipend. Must be able to tolerate long hours in the field and work independently as well as part of a team. Great wildlife. Send letter of interest, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of 3 references to Mark Stanback, Department of Zoology, NJ-15, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

MISCELLANEOUS

From the Guinness Book of Records 1993

Agriculture: Origins

"... A village site found near Nineveh, Iraq, dated provisionally to 9000 B.C., shows evidence of agricultural practices. The earliest evidence for maize cultivation comes from samples taken of sediments in Lake Ayauchi, near the Rio Santiago tributary of the Amazon, which were dated to at least 5,300 years ago. Rice was grown in China by c. 5000 B.C. at Hemudu, near Shanghai." p. 137. [Lake Ayauchi was discovered by Paul Colinvaux; maize pollen by Marc Bush; maize phytoliths by Dolores Piperno.]

Needed ••• Se Necesitan

Two-liter plastic containers, 4 oz glass bottles (mayonnaise) clean if possible. Call extension 360 at Tupper to Rodríguez, Gómez or Windsor. Will appreciate your donations ••• *Envases de plástico de dos litros (soda) y botellas de 4 onzas (mayonesa), limpias si es posible. Llame a la extensión 360 de Tupper a Rodríguez, Gómez o Windsor. Agradeceremos su colaboración.*

For Sale ••• Se Vende

Picnic table and 4 benches, assorted plants. If interested please contact Cindy Martin or leave message at 28-2202 ••• *Mesa de "pic-nic" y cuatro asientos y diferentes plantas. Interesados favor de comunicarse con Cindy Martin o dejar mensaje en el tel. 28-2202.*



God makes the snake