

# STRI news

July 19, 1996

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute • Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá • Tel. 227-6022 • Fax 232-5978

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, July 23, noon seminar speaker will be Helena Fortunato, STRI

*Neogene Speciation in (one or two?) Small Oceans*

### Abstract

The late Neogene formation of the Isthmus of Panama provides an excellent opportunity to compare the proportion of speciation events that occurred within a single ocean or across a developing land barrier, based on cladistic analysis of well preserved fossil lineages. Cladistic phylogenies based on 49 shell characters of 42 species of the genus *Strombina* ranging from the Early Miocene to Recent show that the Isthmus was indeed an important geographic barrier that was breached only 4 or 5 times during the entire evolutionary history of *Strombina*. Results show two main clades both of them originating and evolving in the Caribbean sea. These two lineages colonized the Eastern Pacific in the Middle or early Late Miocene (the *S. (Strombina)* lineage); after which the Caribbean and the Eastern Pacific lineages remained distinct throughout the Recent. Approximately 90% of the inferred speciation events occurred within a single ocean over distances less than 500-1000km. The isthmian barrier was of trivial importance for speciation, as well as for the establishment of new lineages (only one can be attributed to a transisthmian event).

## Note of Interest

"Under the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3, the biological station on Barro Colorado Island, known as the Canal Zone Biological Area, was placed under the administration of the Smithsonian Institution on July 16, 1946... *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution... 1946...*"

We will celebrate this historical event with the SI 150th anniversary. The date will be announced in this newsletter.

## BAMBI SEMINAR

The Bambi seminar speaker for Thursday, July 25 will be Courtney Murren, University of Connecticut

*Genes, Small Islands, and Orchids*

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI at 276-2124.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Geoffrey Parker, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and assistant Traci Guynup, Jul 22-4 Aug, to work on the topography of the outer canopy of a tropical dry forest—a dynamic analysis, at BCI.
- Robert Dudley, STRI Research Affiliate from the University of Texas, Jul 25-16 Aug, to study the ecophysiology of butterfly migrations in Central Panama. He will be stationed at BCI.
- Katherine Milton, University of California, Jul 26-12 Aug, to work on the effects of parasites on a free-ranging howler monkey population in Panama, at BCI.

### Departures

- Haris Lessios, Jul 20-10 Aug, to Washington D.C., to work on the editing of manuscripts of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium and work on collections at the National Museum of Natural History; then to San Francisco to attend the 9th International Echinoderm Conference.
- Harry Barnes, Jul 24-27, to Orlando, FL, to attend the meetings of the University National Laboratory System.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW



### Corrección

El Seguro Colectivo de Accidentes "VADD" incluye, en el plan familiar, únicamente a la familia inmediata, o sea al empleado, su cónyuge y sus hijos.

### From the Naos Labs ••• De los Laboratorios de Naos

The Naos Island Laboratories have problems with telephone lines 228. While this problem is solved, please use the telephone numbers 272-2564, 272-5840 and 272-2579. For those not connected to the lan, please ask your facility's secretary for a copy of the July Naos extensions directory and location ••• *Los Laboratorios de Isla Naos están confrontando con problemas con las líneas de teléfono 228. Mientras esto se solucione, favor usar los números 272-2564, 272-5840 y 272-2579. Para aquellos que no están conectados a GroupWise, pueden pedir el directorio de los números de las extensiones telefónicas y de las oficinas en Naos a la secretaria de su estación de trabajo.*

### STRI IN THE NEWS

- Smithsonian: 150 años de Investigación** In: *La Prensa*: May 24: 6A, by Juan Luis Batista, de *La Prensa*.
- El Animal de las Cinco Vocales** [for children]. In: *Panamá América "Separata Infantil Lalo y Lulu"*, April 7: 14, by Ginet Martínez, EPAE.
- En el Corazón del Canal: Barro Colorado** [for children]. In: *Panamá América "Separata Infantil Lalo y Lulu"*, March 10: 4-5, by Ginet Martínez, EPAE.
- Un Gran Encuentro Coralino** [for children]. In: *Panamá América "Separata Infantil Lalo y Lulu"*, July 7: 11-12.
- Un Lugar Donde se Puede Tocar**. In: *La Prensa* May 22: 6C.

### NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Brawn, J.D., Collins, T.M., Medina, M. and Bermingham, Eldredge.** 1996. "Associations Between Physical Isolation and Geographical Variations Within Three Species of Neotropical Birds." *Molecular Ecology* 5: 33-46.
- Colinvaux, Paul.** 1996. "Low-Down on a Land Bridge." *Nature* 383(July 4): 21-23.
- Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley.** 1996. "Ludlow Griscom y sus Estudios sobre las Aves de Panamá 1917-1927." *"Epocas" Segunda Era*, Junio: 10.
- Kolman, Connie J., Sambuughin, Nyamkhisig and Bermingham, Eldredge.** 1996. "Mitochondrial DNA Analysis of Mongolian Populations and Implications for the Origin of New World Founders." *Genetics* 142: 1321-1334.
- Joyce, Jennifer Ann.** 1996. Physical and Chemical Controls on Methane Bubbling from Two Tropical Reservoirs. Master of Science Thesis, Department of Geology and Geophysics, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City.
- Lindquist, Erik D.** 1996. "La Rana Dorada de Campana y el Copé." *La Prensa*, 18 de Julio: 6C.
- McMillan, W.O. and Bermingham, Eldredge.** 1996. "The Phylogeographic Pattern of Mitochondrial DNA Variation in the Dall's Porpoise *Phocoenoides dalli*." *Molecular Ecology* 5: 47-61.
- Piperno, Dolores R. and Becker, Peter.** 1996. "Vegetational History of a Site in the Central Amazon Basin Derived from Phytolith and Charcoal Records from Natural Soils." *Quaternary Research* 45: 202-209.

- Ranere, Anthony J. and Cooke, Richard G.** 1996. "Stone Tools and Cultural Boundaries in Prehistoric Panamá." In: *Paths to Central American Prehistory*: 49-77, edited by Frederick W. Lange.

### AT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION #340

You may find information on training, congresses, oportunities, etc., that is too long to publish. Some of this information concerns:

- ESRI Course Catalog, July to December 1996.
- Curso Internacional "Ecología Avanzada y Manejo en Manglares", Caracas.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate and Global Change Program, FY 97.
- Convention on Biological Diversity, Unep.
- NASA/NOAA Jointly Sponsored Project Announcement: Enhanced Data Sets for Analysis and Applications.
- CATIE: Curso Internacional de Desarrollo Rural, 4-30 de noviembre de 1996, Costa Rica.
- National Museum of Natural History: 1997 Research Training Program.
- Becas para Investigaciones en Centroamérica sobre Demografía, Centro de Población RAND, con fondos de la Fundación Andrew W. Mellon.
- International Conference on the Biology of Coastal Environments, April 6-9, 1997, Bahrain. Final Circular and Call for Papers.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **Prácticas de Fulbito**

Se invita a todos los miembros de la comunidad de STRI a la práctica de fulbito que se llevará a cabo en los campos de Amador el viernes 26 de julio de 4pm en adelante. Estas prácticas tienen como fin seleccionar los equipos que jugarán en la liga interna de STRI que comenzará a jugar en agosto. Los jugadores se mantendrán informados por el calendario que se repartirá a cada equipo. Para mayor información favor comunicarse con Eric Lam en el Centro Tupper y Cónsul Chamorro en el Taller de Isla Naos.

#### **House Wanted**

House needed to rent or house sit from Aug 10-25. If you have one available, please call the STRI Office of Education, at the Tupper Center.