

# STRI news

September 30, 1996

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

## TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, October 1, noon seminar speaker will be Frank Coro, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba

### *Intraspecific Acoustic Communication in Moths*

#### *Abstract*

Research on moth sound reception and emission has concentrated on predator-prey (usually bat-moth) interactions since the work of Roeder and Treat in the '60's. But as early as 1864 and 1912 researchers were aware of sound being produced by arctiid moths during courtship. Adequate ultrasonic equipment by 1984 enabled Spangler to record the signals of pyralid moths during mating. Here I deal with two, brightly colored, wasp-like moths (Ctenuchinae) and the sounds produced during courtship and other behavioral interactions. Location of the emitting and receiving organs will be discussed as well as the abdominal tympanic organs of moths.

## BAMBI SEMINARS

Thursday, October 3, Bambi seminar speaker will be Frank Coro, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba

### *Mating Acoustic Signals (Songs?) in Two Moths (Ctenuchinae) and How They Hear Them*

On Tuesday, October 8, the Bambi seminar speaker will be Francesco Gattesco, University of Milan, Italy

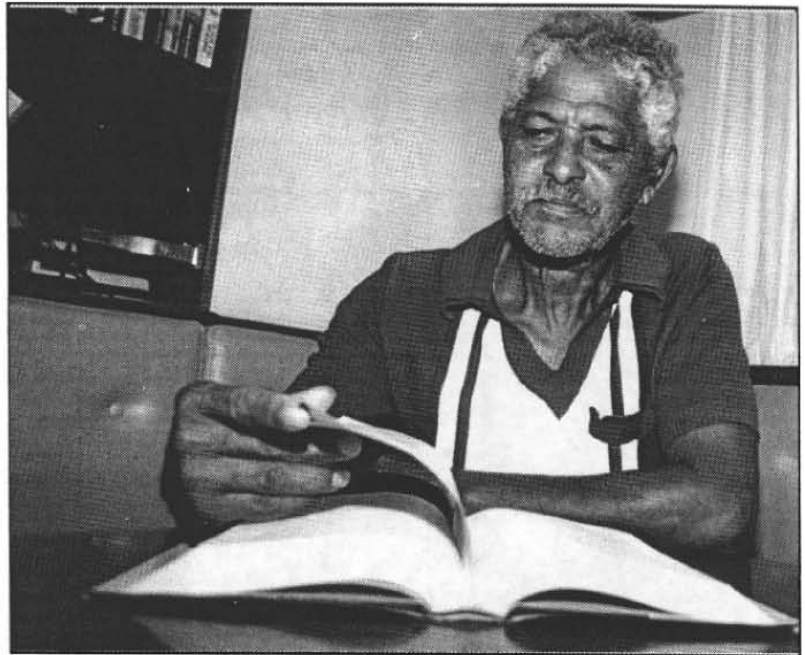
### *T(h)rips on and from BCI*

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI at 272-2124.

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Wilhelm Harder, University of Tübingen, Sep 29-20 Oct, to census figs on BCI and conduct a study on the electric fish behavior, at BCI.



(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

### **Luis ("Lucho") Cruz to Retire • Se Jubila Luis ("Lucho") Cruz**

Luis Alberto Cruz, cook seaman at the R.V. *Urracá* retires today after 25 years of service. "Lucho" was born in Arraiján, and before coming to the Institute, he worked in private boats. At STRI, he has worked in the U.S. *Stenella*, the R.V. *Benjamin* and the R.V. *Urracá*. With an special talent to cook, "Lucho" developed many recipes that are internationally known ••• Luis Cruz ("Lucho") cocinero del R.V. *Urracá*, se jubila hoy con 25 años de servicio. Lucho nació en Arraiján, y antes de trabajar en STRI trabajaba en botes privados. Ha trabajado en el U.S. *Stenella*, el R.V. *Benjamin* y el R.V. *Urracá*. Con un especial talento para cocinar, "Lucho" tiene recetas que ya son conocidas internacionalmente. Lo extrañaremos.

- Ingrid Kaipf, University of Tübingen, Oct 1-30 Nov, to work with Elisabeth Kalko on the echolocation and foraging behavior of neotropical bats, at BCI.
- Alfredo Peretti, Short-term visitor from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, Oct 1-30, to study the mating behavior and sperm transfer in amblypygids in Panama, at BCI.

### Departures

- Elena Lombardo, Oct 1-6, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI.
- Ira Rubinoff, Oct 2-6, to Washington D.C., on official business at SI and to Cambridge, MA, to be inducted to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



El viernes 27 de septiembre celebramos las jubilaciones de Nicolás Almanza, Everardo Curney y Ernesto Espinosa, en el Centro Tupper. En la foto, aparece gran parte del personal de la Oficina de Compras "Procurement", de izquierda a derecha, Ricardo Gómez, Mirna Fernández, Everardo Curney, Mercedes Arroyo, Gabriel Martínez, Olga Madrigal, quien asiste temporalmente algunas tareas relacionadas a correos y otras funciones en el departamento, Bobby Borrell y Luis Turner, reunidos durante el evento. (Foto: Mirna Fernández)

### **JOB OPENNING ••• POSICION ABIERTA**

#### **First Assistant Engineer for R.V. Urracá**

STRI seeks a First Assistant Engineer for the R.V. Urracá (96') with USCG license or equivalent experience and one year (360 watches). Applicants with equivalent Marine Engineer's license issued by another nation plus qualifying experience will also be considered if is able to meet minimum U.S. Federal requirements for physical condition and demonstrate fully ability to read, speak and understand English. The selected candidate will serve as watch engineer at sea, senior or administrative engineer in port and bridge officer. Must be able to repair all of the ship's systems, plan and implement maintenance schedules and spare parts inventory. This is a permanent, full-time position. Those interested please submit curriculum vitae with two recent work references to STRI, Apartado 3353, Balboa, Ancon, Republic of Panama, no later than October 15.

### **AT HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **Nuevo Plan de Seguro**

La compañía Occidental Life Insurance hará una presentación sobre un nuevo plan de seguro de salud para el cáncer, el miércoles 2 de octubre a las 2pm, Large Meeting Room, Centro Tupper. Se invita a todos los empleados (permanentes, contratistas, etc.) que estén interesados en este nuevo plan, deberán asistir a esta charla que tomará cerca de 30 minutos solamente.

### **STRI IN THE NEWS**

#### **Charlas Smithsonian del Mes**

On Thu, Sep 26, there were no seats left at the *Salón Las Oropéndolas*, Metropolitan Park, due to the overflow crowd of interested people attending the fifth "Charla Smithsonian del Mes". This monthly series of talks in Spanish for the lay public, is sponsored by STRI and the Patronato of

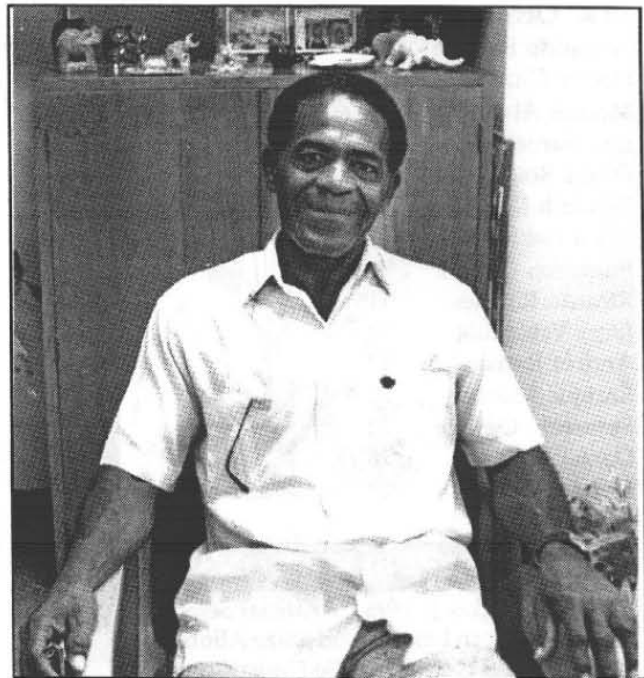
the Metropolitan Park, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution. Last Thu, Wibke Thies, from the University of Tubingen, lectured on the secret life of bats (*La Vida Secreta de los Murciélagos*). Local TV 2 channel covered the event, was also attended by the German Ambassador and his wife. With an overhead projector, slides and taped sounds of bats, the life of one of the most maligned and misunderstood creatures of the tropical forest was revealed to the audience, as well as how to study them. Prejudices and misconceptions about bats were shed by a thrilled audience that kept asking more questions at the end of the talk. At this "charla" there was a great attendance by children with their parents, who asked "how can you tell if a bat is a boy or a girl", while a parent, a hotel owner asked how he could drive away the bats from his hotel without harming them.

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El jueves 26 de septiembre no quedó espacio libre en el Salón de las Oropéndolas del Parque Natural Metropolitano ante el lleno de la audiencia de la "Charla Smithsonian del Mes". Esta serie de charlas mensuales en español para el público, están patrocinadas por STRI y el Patronato del Parque Natural Metropolitano, como parte de las celebraciones de los 150 años del Smithsonian. El jueves pasado Wibke Thies, de la Universidad de Tubingen, presentó *La Vida Secreta de los Murciélagos*. Canal 2 cubrió el evento, al que también atendieron los embajadores de Alemania. Con proyectores, diapositivas y grabaciones de murciélagos, la vida de una las más malignas y menos comprendidas criaturas del bosque tropical fue revelándose ante la audiencia, al igual que cómo los científicos las estudian. Se descartaron prejuicios y concepciones erradas sobre murciélagos con preguntas al final de la charla. Esta charla fue especialmente tuvo una gran cantidad de niños que llegaron con sus padres, quienes preguntaron desde "cómo sabemos si es una niña o un niño", mientras un padre, dueño de un hotel preguntaba cómo alejarlos del hotel sin hacerles ningún daño.

**Dinner to Help Marek • Cena por Marek**

You can buy tickets for the dinner on Friday, October 4 at the Lung Fung Restaurant to help Marek Zdzikot at the Office of Human Resources and at the Tupper Center with Ines Verleye, ext. 2325. \$20. per person ••• *Tiquetes para la cena del viernes 4 de octubre en el Restaurante Lung Fung para ayudar a Marek Zdzikot, pueden obtenerse en la Oficina de Recursos Humanos y en Tupper con Ines Verleye, ext. 2325. \$20. por persona.*



*Carlos ("Chap") Espinosa, maintenance worker at BCI, is retiring from STRI after 25 years of service. He started working under the supervision of "Chichi" Vitola as foreman and C. Neal McKinney as executive officer. Before working at STRI he worked as temporary employee at the Navy, the Air Force, the Army, the Panama Canal Company, "Refinería Nacional" and the Free Zone in Colon. We wish him all best ••• Carlos ("Chap") Espinosa, empleado de mantenimiento en Barro Colorado, se retira luego de 25 años de servicio. Empezó trabajando en STRI bajo la supervisión de "Chichi" Vitola quien era capataz y C. Neal McKinney como director administrativo. Antes de llegar a STRI trabajó como empleado temporal en el "Navy", la Fuerza Aérea, el Ejército de los Estados Unidos, la Compañía del Canal de Panamá, la Refinería Nacional y la Zona Libre de Colón. Le deseamos toda la suerte.*

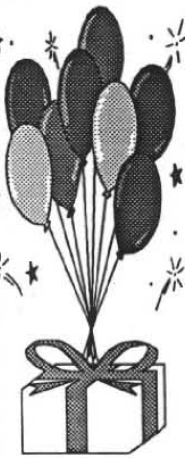
(Foto: Mirna Fernández)

**Learn to Speak Spanish**

You may learn to speak Spanish at the Centro Cultural Panameño Estadounidense, a bi-national center promoting the intercultural exchange of ideas between Panama and the U.S.A. Adult registration is open from Sep 30 to Oct 5, from 9am-1pm and 4pm to 7pm. For more information please call 232-6718.

## STRI October Birthdays

Fernando Bouche	1
Hector Guzmán	2*
Mónica Alvarado	3
Lisa Barnett	3
David Roubik	3
Celideth Mendoza	5
Allen Herre	6*
Francisco Guanti	8
Ricardo Racines	11*
Jorge Ventocilla	12*
Andrés Ramos	17
Enrique Moreno	20
Fernando Oglivie	22
Daniel Millán	26
Richard Cooke	28



## NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Emlen, Douglas J. 1996. "Artificial Selection on Horn Length-Body Size Allometry in the Horned Beetle *Onthophagus acuminatus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)." *Evolution* 50(3): 1219-1230.
- Grodnitsky, Dimitry L. and Dudley, Robert. 1996. "Vortex Visualizatin During Free Flight of Heliconiine Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 69(2): 199-203.
- Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 1996. "Estudios Botánicos de Henri Pittier en la Costa Arriba de Colón, 1911." *"Epocas" Segunda Era* Septiembre 1996: 2-3.
- Quintero A., Diomedes and Cambra T., Roberto A. 1996. "Horcomutilla Casal: Description of Previously Unknown Males, New Distribution Records, and Comments on the Genus (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae)." *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* 5: 53-63.
- Roubik, David W. 1996. "African Honey Bees as Exotic Pollinators in French Guiana." In: *The Conservation of Bees*: 173-182, edited by A. Matheson, S.L. Buchmann, C. O'Toole, P. Westrich and I.H. Williams. London: Academic Press.



Audrey Smith y Stanley Heckadon recibieron, de parte de STRI, una canasta metálica para la recolección de periódicos viejos y directorios telefónicos por parte de miembros de la Fundación Pro-Niños del Darién, quienes dan uso a este papel para reciclarlo y así ayudar a niños necesitados en esa provincia. Desde entonces, hace varias semanas, la canasta se ha llenado varias veces.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Roubik, David W. 1996. "Measuring the Meaning of Honey Bees." In: *The Conservation of Bees*: 163-172, edited by A. Matheson, S.L. Buchmann, C. O'Toole, P. Westrich and I.H. Williams. London: Academic Press.
- Roubik, David W. 1996. "Order and Chaos in Tropical Bee Communities." In: *Encontro Sobre Abelhas de Ribeirao Preto*: 122-132, edited by C.A. Garófalo, et al. Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- Roubik, David W. 1996. "Wild Bees of Brunei." In: *Tropical Rainforest Research—Current Issues*: 59-66. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Wcislo, William T. 1996. "Parasitism Rates in Relation to Nest Site in Bees and Wasps (Hymenoptera: Apoidea)." *Journal of Insect Behavior* 9(4): 643-656.
- Zotz, Gerhard and Tyree, Melvin T. 1996. "Water stress in the epiphytic orchid, *Dimerandra emarginata* (G. Meyer) Hoehne." *Oecologia* 107(2): 151-159.