

STRI news

October 31, 1997

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

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, November 4, noon seminar speaker will be Jeremy Jackson, STRI
The Tempo and Mode of Speciation in the Sea Revisited

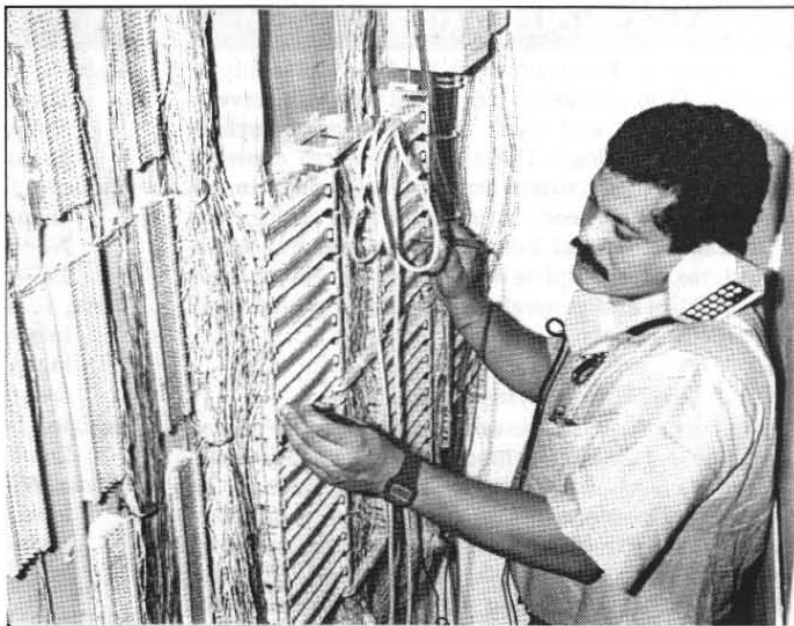
Abstract

The theory of punctuated equilibrium proposed that most fossil species exhibit no net morphological change for millions of years between geologically instantaneous bursts of morphological change associated with the splitting of lineages by allopatric speciation. The theory spawned more rhetoric than data, but the few rigorous studies now available strongly support the punctuated pattern. The apparent predominance of punctuation does not contradict conventional neodarwinian mechanisms, but it does significantly constrain the range of probable scenarios for speciation and macroevolution. I will review the evidence and discuss the evolutionary implications.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Charles Handley, SI National Museum of Natural History, and assistants Jody Biggers and Benjamin Handley, Nov 1 - 30, to work on the demography and natural history of figs on BCI.
- Kristen Nicholson, University of Miami, Nov 6 - Dec 10, to conduct a phylogenetic analysis of *Beta anole* species, in Gamboa and Fortuna.
- Thomas Ebert, San Diego State University, Nov 6 - 21, to explore shapes of growth and survival functions for near-shore Panamanian echinoderms, at Naos and San Blas, on a short-term visitor award.
- Guy Reeves, New Castle University, U.K., to work on molecular genetics of endemic red sea fish, at Naos.



Luis Isaac Moreno, of the STRI Information Technology Office, gives maintenance to the Meridian telephone system installed last year at Tupper, Tivoli, the Library, and Pastor's House, and more recently in Ancon and the Naos Laboratories. This same system is expected to be working by next week at the Culebra Marine Exhibition Center, then in Gamboa, and at the beginning of next year, on BCI ••• Luis Isaac Moreno, de la Oficina de Informática de STRI, mantiene el sistema de teléfonos Meridian instalado en Tupper, Tivoli, la Biblioteca y Pastor's House el año pasado, y más recientemente en Ancón y Naos. Este mismo sistema empezará a trabajar en el Centro de Exhibiciones Marinas de Culebra para la próxima semana, luego en Gamboa, y para principios del próximo año, en BCI. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

Congratulations ••• Felicitaciones

To Carlos Espinosa and Adriana Bilgray, for the birth of their son José Alfredo Espinosa Bilgray, on Monday, October 27, at 10:20pm. José Alfredo weighed 6.9 lb ••• A Carlos Espinosa y Adriana Bilgray, por el nacimiento de su hijo José Alfredo Espinosa Bilgray, el lunes 27 de octubre a las 10:20pm. José Alfredo pesó 7.9 libras y midió 52 cm.

Upcoming Holidays ••• Próximos Días Feriados

Mon, Nov 3, is Panama's independence day, and is a holiday for STRI. Other upcoming holidays are Tue, Nov 11, Veteran's Day, Thu, Nov 27, Thanksgiving, Mon, Dec 8, Panamanian Mother's Day, and Thu, Dec 25, Christmas ••• El lunes 3 de noviembre es día de independencia en Panamá, y es libre para STRI. Otros días libres son el martes 11 de noviembre, Día de Veteranos en Estados Unidos; el jueves 27 de noviembre, Día de Acción de Gracias en Estados Unidos, el lunes 8 de diciembre, Día de las Madres en Panamá, y el jueves 25 de diciembre, Navidad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

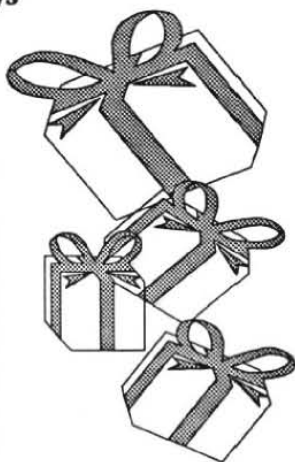
The Division of Environmental Studies, University of California, Davis, seeks an individual who will serve as department chair and teach and conduct research in environmental biology. The area of research expertise should complement current expertise in the department, which has pressing needs in terrestrial field ecology and the physical/biological interface in aquatic and terrestrial systems. The complete announcement with position responsibilities and general information is posted in all STRI bulletin boards.

Tropical Seasonality Symposium

All members of the STRI research community are invited to participate at the STRI symposium "Tropical Seasonality: Ultimate and Proximate Aspects", to be held on Wednesday, December 10, at the Tupper Conference Center. The objectives of this symposium are to contribute and share knowledge on the many aspects of tropical seasonality, related on-going projects, analyses of the proximate aspects of seasonality timing, etc. Contributions may cover all disciplines, and speakers should address both the ultimate and proximate components of seasonality in their respective system (plants, marine organisms, invertebrates, vertebrates). Talks of 15 min. duration, with 10 minutes discussion after each presentation. Presentations will be followed by a get-together in the evening. Please send a possible title of your presentation to Martin Wikelski, either at spotties@gamboa.si.edu or wikelski@zoology.washington.edu.

November STRI Birthdays

Xenia Guerra	2
Carlos Urbina	6
María Leone	7
María Josefa Villar	8
Joel Jovane	9
Olga Linares	10
Milton García	11
Jeremy Jackson	13
Edmundo Rodríguez	22
Nélida Gómez	24
Erasmus Alvarado	25
Mercedes Arroyo	27
Basilio Mela	28
Saturnino Martínez	29
Luis D'Croz	29



NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Andrade, José Luis and Nobel, Park S. 1996. "Habitat, CO₂ Uptake and Growth for the CAM Epiphytic Cactus *Epiphyllum phyllanthus* in a Panamanian Tropical Forest." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 12: 291-306.
- Andrade, José Luis and Nobel, Park S. 1997. "Microhabitats and Water Relations of Epiphytic Cacti and Ferns in a Lowland Neotropical Forest." *Biotropica* 29(3): 261-270.
- Herre, E. Allen and West, Stuart A. 1997. "Conflict of Interest in a Mutualism: Documenting the elusive Fig Wasp-Seed Trade-Off." *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B* 264: 1501-1507.
- Jackson, Jeremy B.C. 1997. "Reefs Since Columbus." *Coral Reefs* 16 (Suppl.): S-23-S32.
- Wcislo, William T. 1997. "Social Interactions and Behavioral Context in a Largely Solitary Bee, *Lasioglossum (Diaclectus) figueresi* (Hymenoptera, Halictidae)." *Insectes Sociaux* 44: 199-208.

AT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION #330

You will find information on congresses, training opportunities, fellowships, workshops, etc., that are too long to publish. Some of these information concerns:

- Curso de Agroecología 98-7, Organización para Estudios Tropicales y la Universidad de Costa Rica, junio y julio de 1998. Aplicaciones hasta el 10 de noviembre de 1997.

MISCELLANEOUS

Para los Afiliados a Palic

La oficina de Mercedes Paniza se mantendrá cerrada durante los días jueves 3 y viernes 4 de noviembre.

Primera Feria Exposición del Medio Ambiente

Durante los días 22 y 23 de noviembre se llevará a cabo la Primera Feria Exposición del Medio Ambiente en Gamboa "Conservación, Educación y Ecoturismo: Herramientas para un Desarrollo Sustentable", de 8am a 6:30 pm. La feria cuenta con el apoyo de la Junta Comunal de Gamboa, las autoridades del corregimiento de Ancón, INRENARE, IPAT, ARI, Fundación Natura, STRI, y la empresa privada. Para mayor información favor comunicarse con Claudio Carrasco, coordinador de la Feria, en BCI o al Tel. 276-6342 • E-mail: carrascc@bci.si.edu