

STRI news

December 12, 1997

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

TUPPER CENTER SEMINARS

Tuesday, December 16, noon seminar speaker will be Luis D'Croz, STRI

Coastal Oceanographic Conditions on Both Sides of the Isthmus of Panama

Abstract

The formation of the Isthmus of Panamá created a barrier that changed the climate and oceanography on both sides of Central America. Two ecologically different realms were formed: the Caribbean Sea, where coral reefs are an important component of the coastal habitats, and the eastern Pacific, where coral reefs make a limited contribution to the coastal habitats. These contrasts are thought to be related to differences in the physical environments in the two oceans. Coastal oceanographic conditions of Panamá have been well described for the Pacific coast, but not the Caribbean coast. Hence we measured various water-quality variables weekly for 3 years on both coasts. The Pacific is much more seasonal than the Caribbean. Nutrients, chlorophyll, phytoplankton, and zooplankton are more abundant in the Pacific, where seawater is more turbid, less saline, and slightly cooler. These differences are amplified during dry season upwelling on the Pacific coast, when conditions become highly eutrophic. There is no seasonal upwelling on the Caribbean coast and very little seasonal change in temperature, nutrients, phytoplankton, and zooplankton. Thus our data support the notion that many of the fundamental controls on the distribution of coral reefs on both coast of the Isthmus of Panamá are purely physical.

NAOS LUNCHEON SEMINAR

Fri, Dec 19, Naos Labs Luncheon seminar speaker will be Guy Reeves, New Castle University, U.K.

Variation in Rates of Protein Evolution

For more information about the Naos Marine Lab Luncheon seminar schedule please contact Bailey Keising at Naos, ext. 3330 or consult the Web at http://160.111.136.12/Naos_Luncheon_Schedule.html

President Clinton issued an executive order, which states that Friday, December 26, 1997, will be a day off and is paid as a Federal holiday ••• El Presidente Clinton declaró el viernes, 26 de diciembre de 1997 como día libre, y será pagado como día feriado.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Jeanne Zeh, University of Houston, Dec 15 - Jan 7, to study the genetic benefits of polyandry: testing the alternatives, in Gamboa.
- David Zeh, University of Houston, Dec 15 - Jan 7, to study the polyandry and male variability in a heterogeneous environment, in Gamboa, BCI and Gigante.
- Michael Wilson, James Cooke University, Dec 15 - Jun 15, to work with David Wilson, in an interoceanic comparison of patterns of larval supply in coral reef fishes between the Great Barrier Reef, Caribbean and the Australian Northwest Shelf, in San Blas.
- Robert Stallard, U.S. Geological Survey, Dec 15 - Jan 11, to continue long-term monitoring of biochemical cycles in watersheds on BCI.
- Kaoru Kitajima, University of Florida, Dec 15-23, to study the effects of light gap opening and closure on recruitment of saplings from seedling banks of shade tolerant trees, at BCI.
- Michael and Debby Kaspari, Dec 18 - Jan 9, to study the linking tree and ant species diversity, on a Mellon Exploratory Research Award, at BCI.

Departures

- Stanley and Patricia Rand, Dec 16, to the U.S., to establish their residence near Washington, D.C.
- Allen Herre, Dec 16-28, to Vienna, Austria, to attend a workshop on Virulence Management, then spend the holidays in the U.S.
- Nancy Knowlton, Dec 17-19, to Washington, D.C., to attend the AAAS Council meeting.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Last Notice ••• *Ultimo Aviso*

This message concerns all employees who still have some restored annual leave in their favor. All restored annual leave must be used before the end of the current calendar year; otherwise, it will be lost. If anyone needs to inquire about his/her specific restored annual leave balance, please contact your facility timekeeper ••• Este mensaje está dirigido a los empleados que aún tienen algún tiempo de "restored annual leave" a su favor. Todo el tiempo que tengan de "restored annual leave" deberá ser usado antes de finalizar el presente año calendario, o de lo contrario, lo perderán. Si alguna persona necesita saber nuevamente sobre el tiempo que tienen disponible en "restored annual leave", favor comunicarse con sus respectivas "timekeepers".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becas para Investigaciones en Centroamérica

El centro de Población de RAND con recursos de la Fundación Andrew W. Mellon financiará proyectos de investigación en la demografía de Centroamérica, así como la colaboración entre centroamericanos y estadounidenses. Las investigaciones incluyen la reproducción y planificación de la familia, crecimiento de la población, mortalidad, demografía epidemiológica, migración, población y el medio ambiente, y tópicos relacionados. Los proyectos de investigación de disertación son especialmente aceptables. Máximo \$10,000. Entrega de aplicaciones: 15 de enero. Para más información, comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación #330, ext. 2287.

Beca para Estudiante Panameño

La Universidad de Princeton y STRI anuncian una beca para un estudiante panameño que desee participar en tres cursos de biología que forman parte de un semestre de Princeton en Panamá, del 1ro. de febrero al 1ro. de mayo de 1998. Requisitos: ser estudiante de biología (al menos de 3er año); hablar inglés fluidamente; excelencia académica; disponibilidad para dedicarse al programa tiempo completo (deberá permanecer con el grupo en las diferentes localidades). Las solicitudes deben incluir hoja de vida, créditos universitarios oficiales, y una carta de presentación en inglés, indicando la razón por la que desea participar en el programa. Fecha límite: 6 de enero de 1998. Favor enviar su solicitud a la Oficina de Educación, STRI, Apartado 2072, Balboa, Panamá. Tel. 227-6022 ext. 2247 • Fax: 232-5978 • E-mail: barrio@ic.si.edu

AT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION #330

You will find information on opportunities that is too long to publish. Some of this information concerns:

- Conference on the Inventory and Monitoring of Forested Ecosystems, Boise, Idaho, August 16-20
- Estudios Graduados en Biología Celular y Molecular en la Universidad de Puerto Rico (Poster).
- Curso: "Instrumento de Planificación para el Manejo Sostenible de los Recursos Forestales Tropicales", 26 de mayo a 24 de junio, Alemania.
- Manejo Costero Integrado: una inversión en el desarrollo sostenible del futuro. Programa alemán de becas de 12 meses para jóvenes ejecutivos. Inscripción: hasta el 15 de junio de 1998.

NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

Condit, Ricard. 1997. "Forest Turnover, Diversity, and CO₂." *Tree* 12(7): 249-250.

Cooke, Richard G. and Piperno, Dolores. 1996. "Le Peuplement de L'Amérique Centrale et de L'Amérique du Sud et les Adaptations: Aux Forêt Tropicales Avant la Colonisation Européenne." In: *L'Alimentation en Forêt Tropicale: 77-96*, edited by C.M. Hladik, A. Hladik, H. Pagezy, O.F. Linares, G.J.A. Koppert and A. Froment. Paris: UNESCO.

D'Croz, Luis and Robertson, D. Ross. 1997. "Coastal Oceanographic Conditions Affecting Coral Reefs on both Sides of the Isthmus of Panama." In: *Proceedings of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium II: 2053-2058*, edited by H.A. Lessios and I.G. Macintyre. Panama: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

MISCELLANEOUS

Juguetes (Toys for) Aguas Frías

José Ramón Perurena invites all members of the SIKI community to share a toy with a small child from Aguas Frías, Darién. This community does not have electricity available and it survives from rice, beans and yuca farming. Orlando Hernández and Marcela Paz will collect the gifts until December 24. Please indicate sex and age with the toy ••• José Ramón Perurena los invita a todos a enviar regalitos a los niños pobres de la pequeña comunidad de Aguas Frías en Darién, donde no hay electricidad, y viven de la agricultura de arroz, frijoles y yuca. Pueden entregar los regalos, indicando edad y sexo, a Orlando Hernández y Marcela Paz, en Tupper, hasta el 24 de diciembre.

From the Security Office

The following recommendation has been received from the Regional Security Office, U.S.Embassy:

—"The Department of State recommends that U.S. citizens defer travel to the PAVONE/GOLFITO region of southern Costa Rica. U.S. citizens residents of this region have been targeted by organized bands of squatters attempting to remove them from their land by violence. Squatters killed a U.S. citizen on November 13, 1997. Operating with impunity, the squatters continue their efforts to intimidate U.S. citizens in the area, occupying their land, threatening them with death, and reportedly cutting water supplies to their land. U.S. citizens residing in the region should exercise extreme caution, including evacuating the area if threats to their safety are not promptly addressed by Costa Rica Government"—