

# STRI news

December 30, 1997

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

## SEMINARS

Tue, Jan 6, noon seminar speaker will be Karen Lips, Saint Lawrence University

### *The Disappearance of Frogs from Lower Central America and Panama*

#### Abstract

Sometime after 1987 most of the frog species from Monteverde, Costa Rica disappeared. They have not been seen since. Six years later I documented the decline and disappearance of the riparian anurans from Las Tablas, Costa Rica. Three years later I documented another amphibian decline, this time in the Reserve Forestal Fortuna in western Panama. All three cases are similar in the pattern of decline, the species affected, and general habitat characteristics. Based on these similarities and autopsies of dead frogs from Fortuna, I believe that these declines are evidence of a microbial pathogen sweeping south and eastward through the Isthmus of Panama.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

During 1998 we anticipate a number of changes among our scientific staff due to retirements and the acceptance of employment offers made by other research organizations. Our departing colleagues have indicated their intentions to continue to pursue their research interests in the tropics. In most cases their research will be conducted at STRI and we will have an opportunity to welcome them back on a yearly basis. We will endeavor to fill most of the vacancies as quickly as is possible and we can look forward to welcoming new colleagues to the STRI community.

In early 1998 we also look forward to the completion of the long awaited Naos molecular biology facilities. Also at Naos



Director Ira Rubinoff, Carlos Tejada, and José Ramón Perurena presented Juan Carlos Roqueiro with a "PRIDE" award, for professional inventive, dedication and excellence, on Tuesday, December 23. During the award ceremony, Carlos Grael and Oscar Jiménez received a 10-year service pin, and Juan Campos, received a 20-year service pin (more on page 4) ••• Ira Rubinoff, Carlos Tejada y José Ramón Perurena hicieron entrega de un certificado de Premio "PRIDE" a Juan Carlos Roqueiro, por inventiva, dedicación y excelencia profesional, el martes 23 de diciembre. Durante la ceremonia, Carlos Grael y Oscar Jiménez recibieron condecoraciones por 10 años de servicio, y Juan Campos por 20 años de servicio (más en página 4).

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

we eagerly anticipate the completion of a new pier which will facilitate the care and servicing of the R.V. Urraca and the eventual upgrading of the sea water system. Work should begin on a pier in Gamboa that will provide STRI with logistical support for BCI that is independent of the facilities at the Dredging Division.

Other high priorities this year will be the development of a personnel system which will serve STRI's employees after the year 2000, the establishment of a new Atlantic Coast marine laboratory to replace the San Blas station and the construction of the prototype ring of the Free Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment (FACE) system.

I wish all of the STRI family a happy and healthy New Year, and look forward to working together for the continued support, leadership and excellence in tropical research that have become STRI's trademark.

Ira Rubinoff

## DEL DIRECTOR

Durante el año de 1998 anticipamos un número de cambios en el personal científico permanente debido a jubilaciones y ofertas de trabajo en otras instituciones de investigación que han aceptado algunos científicos. Los colegas que departen, han indicado su intención de continuar su interés en estudios tropicales. En la mayoría de los casos su investigación será llevada a cabo en STRI y tendremos la oportunidad de darles la bienvenida cada año. Nos hemos decidido a llenar sus vacantes lo más pronto posible, de manera que tendremos nuevos colegas en la comunidad de STRI.

A principios del año de 1998 esperamos ver la finalización de la tan esperada estación de biología molecular de Naos. También en Naos esperamos ansiosamente ver terminada la obra del nuevo muelle que facilitará el cuidado y los servicios que presta el R.V. *Urracá*, así como la pronta modernización del sistema de agua salada. Comenzarán también los trabajos para la construcción del puerto en Gamboa que brindará a STRI con el apoyo logístico de Barro Colorado, el cual será independiente de las instalaciones de la División de Dragado del Canal de Panamá.

Otras prioridades importantes este nuevo año será el desarrollo de un sistema de personal para los empleados de STRI después del año 2000, el establecimiento de un nuevo laboratorio marino en la costa del Atlántico para reemplazar la estación de San Blas, y la construcción de un anillo prototipo del sistema al aire libre de enriquecimiento de dióxido de carbono "FACE".

Quiero desearles a toda la familia de STRI un feliz y saludable Año Nuevo, y deseo que sigamos trabajando juntos en el apoyo, liderazgo y excelencia ininterrumpidos en la investigación tropical, que se han convertido en el símbolo de STRI.

Ira Rubinoff

## PEOPLE

### Arrivals

- Ann Budd, University of Iowa, Dec 30 - Jan 12, to study the neogene reef corals of the Bocas del Toro region of Panama.
- Nigel Asquith, Duke University, Dec 31 - Jan 19, to study the abiotic and biotic limits to tree regeneration at sites around the Gatun Lake, on BCI.
- Darren Crayn, Mellon postdoctoral fellow from the University of South Wales, Australia, Dec 31 - Dec

31, 1998, to work with Andrew Smith, on the evolutionary origin of epiphytism and crassulacean acid metabolism within the neotropical family Bromoliaceae.

- Renate Sponer, short term fellow from the University of Copenhagen, Jan 1 - March 31, to study the phylogeography, population structure and asexual reproduction in the uniporous, cosmopolitan brittle star *Amphipholis aquamata*: a preliminary approach to studying evolutionary processes in marine invertebrate, at Naos.
- Ola Fincke, University of Oklahoma, Jan 2-9, to study the effects of male and female behavior of offspring survivorship in a tree-hole breeding damselfly, at BCI and Ft. Sherman.
- Patrick O'Hara, Simon Fraser University, Canada, Jan 3 - Jun 30, to study the role of competition and moult in overwintering distributions of Western Sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*).
- Michael Breed, University of Colorado, Jan 3-13, to carry out comparisons between BCI and La Sè on the behavioral ecology of a tropical ant, on a Mellon Exploratory Research Award.
- Sandra Bucci, Argentina, Jan 3 - Feb 28, to work with Frederick Meinzer and Guillermo Goldstein, on the environmental and physiological regulation of water flux through a tropical forest ecosystem, at BCI.
- Wayne Sousa and four assistants, Jan 5 - Aug 31, to study the patterns and mechanisms of canopy tree regeneration in a Caribbean mangrove forest, at Galeta.
- Sergey Piontkovski, short-term visitor from Plymouth Marine Laboratories, U.K., Jan 5 - Feb 5, to study the temporal dynamics of the size structure of the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean plankton communities: the comparative approach, at Naos.
- Jerome Howard, University of Louisiana, Jan 5-13, to study the division of labor during foraging by a social insect, in Gamboa and BCI.
- Helen Hull-Sanders, University of Louisiana, Jan 5-13, to work with Jerome Howard, in Gamboa and BCI.

### Departures

- Penny Barnes, Jan 1-13, to Boston, to attend meetings of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology.

**Our Condolences •• Sentido Pésame**

To Amalia Herrera, for the death of her mother, on Saturday, December 27 ••• *A Amalia Herrera, por la muerte de su madre el día sábado, 27 de diciembre.*

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW****Additional Data Sets Through MESP Web Page**

Karl Kaufmann

In addition to the previously available data on sea temperatures, the Marine Environmental Sciences Program now has the following data available for immediate retrieval by accessing the site through the internet:

- From the Galeta and San Blas stations:  
Solar radiation: Galeta from 1975; San Blas from 1991  
Wind speed and direction: Galeta from 1975; San Blas from 1992  
Rainfall: Galeta from 1974; San Blas from 1991
- Previously available data: Water temperature from seven stations in the Caribbean and Pacific. Caribbean from 1988; Pacific from 1995

Full documentation is included, including descriptions of the history of instrument use, the accuracy (current and historical) of the sensors (particularly important for solar radiation and temperature where there is little interannual variation) and current calibration techniques. Address: [www.si.edu/organiza/centers/stri/mesp.html](http://www.si.edu/organiza/centers/stri/mesp.html)  
STRI intraweb: [striweb.si.edu/stripage/mesp.html](http://striweb.si.edu/stripage/mesp.html)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****STRI January Birthdays**

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Fernando Pascal   | 4  |
| Rafael Batista    | 5  |
| Carlos Guevara    | 7  |
| José Sánchez      | 8  |
| Antonio Escala    | 9  |
| Enrique Marciaga  | 17 |
| S. Joe Wright     | 17 |
| José Sanchez      | 18 |
| Wilbert Forde     | 20 |
| Eladio González   | 25 |
| Revana Durán      | 28 |
| Francisco Sánchez | 29 |
| Agapito González  | 29 |
| Leonor Motta      | 30 |
| Noris Salazar     | 30 |

**AT THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION #330**

- Miscel•lània Zoològica (Formerly Miscelánea Zoológica) published by the Zoology Museum of Barcelona: Call for papers • Subscription form
- International Course on the Identification of Fungi of Agricultural and Environmental Significance, August 10 - September 18, 1998
- International Mycological Institute: Training Courses for 1998.

**NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS**

**Baker, Andrew and Rowan, Rob.** 1997. "Diversity of Symbiotic Dinoflagellates (Zooxanthellae) in Scleractinian Corals of the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific." In: *Proceedings of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, Panama, June 24-29, 1996*: 2: 1301-1306, edited by H.A. Lessios and Ian G. Macintyre. Panamá, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

**Baker, Andrew C., Rowan, Rob and Knowlton, Nancy.** 1997. "Symbiosis Ecology of Two Caribbean Acroporid Corals." In: *Proceedings of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, Panama, June 24-29, 1996*: 2: 1295-1300, edited by H.A. Lessios and Ian G. Macintyre. Panamá, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

**CARICOMP** [... Guzmán, Héctor,...]. 1997. "Studies on Caribbean Coral Bleaching." In: *Proceedings of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, Panama, June 24-29, 1996*: 1: 673-678, edited by H.A. Lessios and Ian G. Macintyre. Panamá, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

**Fjerdingstad, E.J. and Broomsma, J.J.** 1997. "Variation in Size and Sperm Content of Sexuials in the Leafcutter and *Atta colombica*." *Insectes Sociaux* 44: 209-218.

**Hladik, Annette, Leigh, Jr., Egbert Giles and Bourlière.** 1996. "Disponibilités des Ressources Alimentaires dans les Forêt Tropicales: Contexte et Données Récentes." In: *L'Alimentation en Forêt Tropicale: Interactions Bioculturelles et Perspectives de Développement*: 219-242, edited by C.M. Hladik, A. Hladik, H. Pagezy, O. F. Linares, G.J.A. Koppertoppert and A. Froment. Paris: UNESCO.

**Knowlton, Nancy.** 1996. "Trench Warfare on the Shore: Interclonal Aggression in Sea Anemones." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 11(7): 271-272.

Lim, Y.A., Kojima, S., Nakamara, N., Miyashiro, H., Fishimi, H., Komatsu, K., Hattori, M., Shimotohno, K., Gupta, M.P. and Correa, Mireya. 1997. "Inhibitory Effects of *Cordia spinences* Extracts and Their Constituents on Reverse Transcriptase and Protease from Human Immunodeficiency Virus." *Phytotherapy Research* 2: 490-495.

Linares, Olga F. 1996. "Les Dimensions Économiques et Symbolique d'un Choix: Vin de Palme ou Huile de Palme." In: *L'Alimentation en Forêt Tropicale: Interactions Bioculturelles et Perspectives de Développement*: 903-921, edited by C.M. Hladik, A. Hladik, H. Pagezy, O. F. Linares, G.J.A. Koppertoppert and A. Froment. Paris: UNESCO.

McKey, Doyle, Linares, Olga F., Clement, Charles R. and Hladik, Claude Marcel. 1996. "Recursos Alimentares des Forêt Tropicales: Une Mise en Perspective des Tendances Évolutives et de l'Impact du Peuplement Humain." In: *L'Alimentation en Forêt Tropicale: Interactions Bioculturelles et Perspectives de Développement*: 43-54, edited by C.M. Hladik, A. Hladik, H. Pagezy, O.F. Linares, G.J.A. Koppert, and A. Froment. Paris: UNESCO.

Pandolfi, John M. and Jackson, Jeremy B.C. 1997. "The Maintenance of Diversity on coral reefs: Examples from the Fossil Record." In: *Proceedings of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, Panama, June 24-29, 1996*: 1: 397-404, edited by H.A. Lessios and Ian G. Macintyre. Panamá, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.



Early this year, Deputy Director Tony Coates presented Georgina de Alba and Argelis Ruiz Guevara, of the Education Office, with 20-year service pins ••• Hace algunos meses, el subdirector Tony Coates hizo entrega de las condecoraciones de veinte años de servicio a Georgina de Alba y a Argelis Ruiz Guevara.  
(Foto: M.A. Guerra)

### ALSO IN 1997

The following employees also received pins for 10, 20 and 30 years of service in 1997. Congratulations to all! ••• Los siguientes empleados también recibieron condecoraciones por 10, 20 y 30 años de servicio durante 1997. Felicitaciones a todos!

#### Ten Years ••• Diez Años

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mireya Correa    | Ana María Ford   |
| Fernando Oglivie | Mario Santamaría |

#### Twenty Years ••• Veinte Años

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Wilbert Forde | Saturnino Martínez |
| Leonor Motta  | Ricardo Thompson   |

#### Thirty Years ••• Treinta Años

Aníbal Velarde

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### For Rent

Two-bedroom apartment, fully furnished (fridge, stove, a/c in both bedrooms), near Calle 50, Edificio VIP. Security 24hrs, metal/security door. \$750. Interested please call Fernando Pascal a.w.h. at 262-1686.

"Some men never seem to grow old. Always active in thought, always ready to adopt new ideas, they are never chargeable with fogginess. Satisfied, yet ever dissatisfied, settled, yet ever unsettled, they always enjoy the best of what is, are the first to find the best of what will be."  
William Shakespeare