

STRI news '98

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

TUPPER CENTER SEMINAR

Tue, Mar 17, noon seminar speaker will be Kyle Summers, East Carolina University
More Dirt on Poison Frogs

Abstract

This talk will consist of three parts. In the first part, I will discuss recent results from molecular systematic approaches to the phylogeny of the poison frogs. This phylogenetic information will be used to address three questions: 1) How did parental care evolve in the genus *Dendrobates*? 2) Is there a significant relationship between toxicity and coloration in the poison frogs? 3) Is there a significant relationship between the proportion of ants in the diet and toxicity in the poison frogs? In the second part, I will discuss recent research on the Amazonian poison frog, *Dendrobates ventrimaculatus*, in Ecuador. In particular, I will focus on three questions: 1) Does the Amazonian poison frog have biparental care? 2) Does the Amazonian poison frog exhibit brood parasitism? 3) Do Amazonian poison frog tadpoles display kin discrimination? In the third part I will discuss recent work on the explosive color divergence among populations of the strawberry poison frog, *Dendrobates pumilio*, in the Bocas del Toro Archipelago.

SPECIAL: IN SPANISH

Tue, Mar 17, seminar speaker will be Martin Meschede, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, University of Tübingen, at STRI's Center for Tropical Paleocology and Archaeology, 4pm

New Understanding of the Plate Tectonic Evolution of the Cocos Plate

Abstract: New magnetic and bathymetric data in front of Costa Rica and Panama lead to a reinterpretation of the plate tectonic evolution of the southern Cocos and northern Nazca plates. The separation of the Farallon Plate into Nazca and Cocos plates occurred about 24 m.y. ago with a NE-SW oriented spreading system (CNS-1) as the first precursor of the presently active Cocos-Nazca spreading center. A jump of the spreading axis into a ENE-WSW direction which created the second precursor of the Cocos-Nazca spreading center (CNS-2) occurred at about 19.5 m.y. The final jump into the present direction (CNS-3) occurred at 14.7 m.y. Hotspot volcanism at the Galapagos and Cocos hotspots overprinted the complicated spreading history forming the Carnegie and Cocos ridges, respectively.

NEW STRI PUBLICATION



Fig. 1. Ritualized display postures accompanying aggressive vocalizations by southern great skuas (*Stercorarius skua*). From Moynihan 1962a, 3, fig. 2.

Linares, Olga F. 1997. "Glossary." In: *The Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals*, by Martin H. Moynihan: 117-121.

Moynihan, Martin H. 1997. *The Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Robinson, Michael H. 1997. "Foreword". In: *The Social Regulation of Competition and Aggression in Animals*, by Martin H. Moynihan: xii-xv.

ESPECIAL: EN ESPAÑOL

Martes, 17 de marzo, Martin Meschede, del Instituto de Geología y Paleontología de la Universidad de Tübingen, dictará el seminario:

Nuevos Encuentros sobre la Evolución de la Placa Tectónica de Cocos

en el Centro de Paleocología y Arqueología Tropical de STRI Ancón, a las 4:00 pm. Este seminario se dictará en español. Los miembros de la comunidad científica panameña están especialmente invitados.

BAMBI SEMINAR

Thu, Mar 19, Bambi seminar speaker will be Guillermo Goldstein, University of Hawaii

Resource Utilization and Phenotypic Plasticity of Invasive Species in Hawaii

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call BCI at 272-2124, or e-mail: Bambi.

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Guillermo Goldstein, University of Hawaii, Mar 13-26, to continue studies on BCI.
- Missy Holbrook, University of California, Mar 15-26, to work with Guillermo Goldstein, on BCI.
- Maarten Vonhof, York University, Mar 15 - Apr 30, to work with Sharon Gill on the mating tactics, duetting and mate choice in the buff-breasted wren, in Gamboa.
- Catherine Derivera, Short-term fellow from the University of California, Mar 15 - Jun 15, to study the male-female conflict over mate searching in *Uca beebei*, at Naos.
- Manuel Lerdaun and Heather Throop, State University of New York, Mar 16-23, to study the ecological controls over isoprene emission from tropical forest trees, on BCI, Gamboa and Ft. Sherman.
- Jeff Brawn and Scott Robinson, Illinois Natural History Survey, Mar 19-29, to continue monitoring the dynamics of avian communities and population in central Panama and the stability of tropical forests and its fauna, on military installations of the Panama Canal area.
- David Bunker, University of Pittsburgh, Mar 20 - Jun 30, to make experimental test of the effects of drought in seedling growth and mortality, on BCI.

Departures

- Paul Colinvaux, Mar 14-21, to Mérida, Venezuela, to attend the PEP meetings.
- Nancy Knowlton, Mar 15 - Apr 9, to Cape Verde Island, on an expedition to collect shrimp specimen for research.

Congratulations • Felicidades y Buena Suerte

To Ana Maria Alvarado and Paul Miller, for their wedding on Sat, Jan 31, Washington D.C. Ana Maria will leave the STRI Development Office at the end of this month, to reside in Boston. She studied marine biology at the University of Panama, and started working for STRI on August, 1989, as Ancon secretary. She worked as secretary at the Tupper Center, and was responsible for the creation and development of the STRI Mini-Bookstore. Later she became assis-

tant to Harry Barnes, before her appointment on STRI D.C. as Development Associate. Ana María plans to continue her career in Boston, Massachusetts. All her co-workers wish Ana Maria and Paul the best in this new stage of their lives • A Paul Miller y Ana María Alvarado, por su matrimonio el 31 de enero, en Washington D.C. Ana María deja la Oficina de Desarrollo Institucional de STRI a finales de este mes, para residir en Boston. Ana María es bióloga marina, y empezó a trabajar en STRI en agosto de 1989, como secretaria de Ancón. Trabajó como secretaria del Centro Tupper, y fue responsable por la creación y promoción de la Mini-Librería de STRI. También trabajó como asistente de Harry Barnes, antes de aceptar una posición como asociada a la Oficina de Desarrollo Institucional de STRI en Washington. Ana María planea continuar su carrera profesional en Boston, Massachusetts. Sus compañeros en STRI les deseamos a ambos todo lo mejor, en esta nueva etapa de sus vidas.

Interested in Work at STRI

Natural Sciences undergraduate student is interested in paid or volunteer work at STRI to gain tropical work experience. Is specializing in zoology and marine biology and has experience in fisheries research. Interested contact Caitriona McInerney, c/o Marine Biodiversity Section, National Museum and Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF 1 3NP, UK. CV available at Human Resources.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station invites applications for Assistant Director/Researcher/Database Manager. The selected candidate will assist with all activities at the station, including the development of long-range plans for research and educational programs, attract grant support, and maintain a database of environmental data. Additional information regarding this position and the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station at <http://www.selu.edu/Biology>, or e-mail: bhastings@selu.edu. Applications must be received by Mar 31, 1998.

Directory of Marine and Freshwater Scientists

The last global directory for marine and freshwater scientists was published by UNESCO in 1983. In order to update the information, please input your details (few minutes) and the data will be validated and loaded in a day or so. You will find a general GLODIR page (with links to input and search pages on) at <http://www.unesco.org/ioc/infserv/glodir.htm>. The input form can be found on: <http://www.unesco.org/ioc/isisdb/html/glodir.htm>. The search form can be found at <http://www.unesco.org/ioc/isisdb/html/glodsearch.htm>