

STRI news '98

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

TUPPER CENTER SEMINAR

Tuesday, June 2, noon seminar speaker will be Ulrich Mueller, University of Maryland

The Evolution of Agriculture in Ants

BAMBI SEMINAR

Thursday, Jun 4, Bambi seminar speaker will be Simon Levin, Princeton University

Ecosystems as Complex Adaptive Systems

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

BEHAVIOR DISCUSSION

The Behavior Discussion Group will meet

Tuesday, June 9, at 1:30pm at the Upper Center Large Meeting Room. Catherine de Rivera, short-term fellow from the University of California at San Diego will lead the discussion on

Determinants of Mate Searching in Fiddler Crabs

PEOPLE

Arrivals

- Jacobus Boomsma and Palle Vilesen, University of Aarhus, Denmark, May 23 - Jun 14, to study the evolutionary ecology of a fungus-growing ant, in Gamboa.
- Cameron Currie, STRI predoctoral fellow from the University of Toronto, May 23 - Nov 15, to study the parasitism of attine fungal gardens, *where?*
- David Malloch, University of Toronto, May 23 - Jun 2, to study the fungal parasites of leaf-cutting ant colonies, in Gamboa and Naos.
- Ulrich Mueller, University of Maryland, May 23 - Jun 21, to study the evolution and ecology of the attine ant-fungus symbiosis, in Gamboa.



STRI research associate Tom Kursar briefs members of the National Assembly, Consular Corps and the Ministry of Foreign Relations on his on-going research projects on BCI, during their visit to the Island, on Saturday, May 23 ••• Tom Kursar, investigador asociado a STRI, describe sus proyectos de investigación en Barro Colorado, a miembros de la Asamblea Legislativa, del cuerpo consular y del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, durante su visita a la Isla, el día sábado, 23 de mayo. (Foto: M.A. Guerra)

- Steve Phelps, STRI predoctoral fellow, University of Texas, May 24 - Jul 15, to study the vertical preferences in the Túngara frog and its cogenere: field tests of neural network prediction, in Gamboa.
- Karen Warkentin, STRI short-term fellow from the University of Michigan, May 24 - Aug 17, to study the phenotypic plasticity in Hatching of amphibian Embryos, on BCI.
- Jaime Bosch, University of Texas, May 24 - July 5, to join the Túngara frog project, in Gamboa.
- John Griggs, STRI predoctoral fellow from the University of Texas, May 24 - May, 1999, to do archaeological excavation and survey at a shaft and chamber tomb cemetery site in Colon province.
- Melanie Bateman, University of Utah, May 27 - Jul 1, to work with Phyllis Coley on the deterrence of fungi and herbivores in young leaves with different developmental patterns, on BCI.
- Jerome Howard, University of Louisiana, May 28 - Jun 30, to study the plant population responses to insect and mammal removal, on BCI.

- Michael Ryan, University of Texas, Jun 1 - 30, to join the Túngara project, in Gamboa.
- Sabrina Russo, University of Illinois, Jun 1 - Aug 30, to study proximate factors influencing structure and behavioral dynamics of mixed species of antwren flocks in Panama, in Gamboa.
- Annmarie Reich, Princeton University, Jun 1 - Jul 1, to study the specificity and diversity of pathogen populations found in *Platypodium* seedlings, on BCI.
- Sandra Ramírez, STRI short-term fellow from the University of Costa Rica, Jun 1 - Aug 31, to study large seed size in *Gustavia superba*: a dispersal reward or an establishment requirement, on BCI.
- Craig Bernstein, University of Wisconsin, Jun 1 - Jan 28, 1999, to work with Gregory Adler's projects, on BCI and Gamboa.
- Karen Lips and Mike White, St. Lawrence University, NY, Jun 2 - Aug 30, to investigate the spread and causes of amphibian declines in tropical America, at Tupper.
- Lisa Infante, University of California, Jun 3 - Aug 20, to study the microclimatic and disease effects on tree communities at tropical forest edge, in Bocas del Toro.
- Greg Gilbert, STRI research associate from the University of California, Jun 3 - Aug 6, to continue research projects in Gamboa and BCI.
- Robert Stallard, U.S. Geological Survey, Jun 4-14, to work at the monitoring of natural resources in the Panama Canal Watershed project: soils and hydrology, on BCI.
- John Pickering, University of Georgia, Jun 4-15, to continue research projects on a Mellon Research Enhancement Award on BCI and the OTS.
- Simon Levin, Princeton University, Jun 4-9, to visit STRI facilities, consult with staff and give a seminar.
- Val Beasley and David Green, School of Vet Medicine, Illinois, Jun 5-21, to work with Karen Lips, at Tupper.

Departures

- Paul Colinvaux, May 21 - Jun 20, to Woods Hole, MA, to work and prepare for field trip to Brazil. On May 29 travels to Monte Dorado, Brazil, to continue research.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

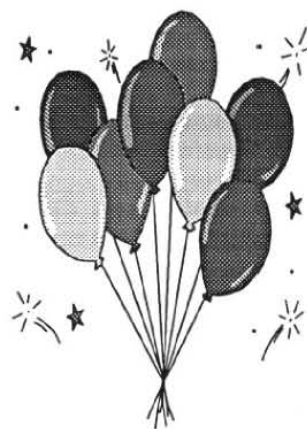
At the University of Texas

The Department of Zoology, University of Texas, Austin, will be searching for an assistant professor in behavioral

ecology/animal behavior in the fall. They are especially interested in those studying the mechanisms, function and/or evolution of ecologically relevant behavior in natural populations. Mike Ryan, who will head that search, will be in Gamboa during June and will be happy to speak to anyone interested in applying for this position.

STRI June Birthdays

Hely C. Cortez	2
Plinio Góndola	2
Argelis Ruiz	2
Nereida Hernández	2
Rolando Pérez	4
Bonifacio De León	5
Gabriel Abrego	7
Gloria Maggiori	7
José Carlos Espino	7
Klaus Winter	10
David West	15
Maritza Perurena	15
Leo van Valkenhoef	29
Carmen Sucre	30



NEW STRI PUBLICATIONS

- Kennard, D.K.** 1998. "Biomechanical Properties of Tree Saplings and Free-Standing Lianas as Indicators of Susceptibility to Logging Damage." *Forest Ecology and Management* 102(2-3): 179-191.
- Robertson, D. Ross.** 1998. "The Incomparable Caribbean." In: *Reef Fish '95: Recruitment and Population Dynamics of Coral Reef Fishes*: 103-106, edited by G.P. Jones, P.J. Doherty, B.D. Mapstone and L. Howett. Townsville, Australia: CRC Reef Research Center.
- Robertson, D. Ross.** 1998. "Ignoring Population Structure in Community Studies." In: *Reef Fish '95: Recruitment and Population Dynamics of Coral Reef Fishes*: 161-163, edited by G.P. Jones, P.J. Doherty, B.D. Mapstone and L. Howett. Townsville, Australia: CRC Reef Research Center.
- Roulston, T'ai H.** 1998. "Hourly Capture of Two Species of *Megalopta* (Hymenoptera: Apoidea; Halictidae) at Black Lights in Panama with Notes on Nocturnal Foraging by Bees." *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 70(3): 189-196.
- Wcislo, William T. and Danforth, Bryan N.** 1998. "Reply from W.T. Wcislo and B.N. Danforth." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 13(5): 199.