

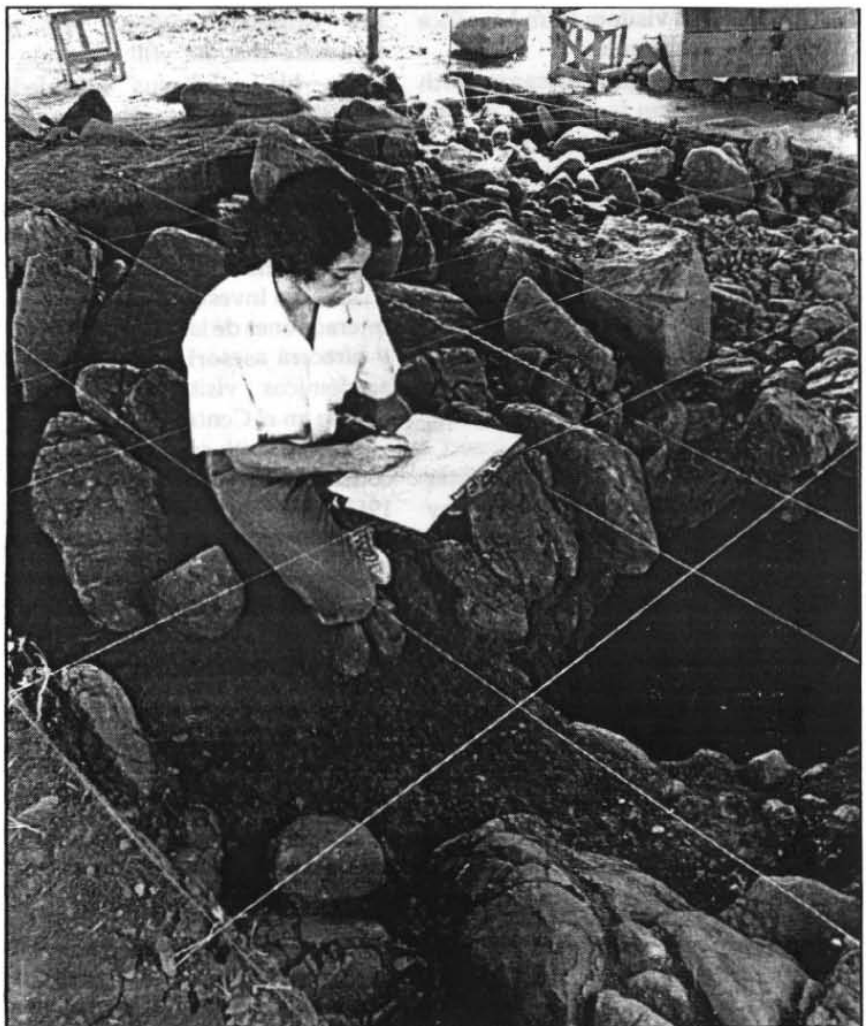
# STRI news '99

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, January 11, 1999

Archaeologist Claudia Espejel from Universidad Autónoma de México, collaborator of Richard Cooke, takes notes at the Cerro Juan Díaz Archaeology Project in Los Santos, as part of her study on the funerary features at the site ••• Claudia Espejel, arqueóloga de la Universidad Autónoma de México colaboradora de Richard Cooke, toma notas en el Proyecto Arqueológico de Cerro Juan Díaz en los Santos, como parte de sus estudios de excavaciones de rasgos mortuorios en el sitio.

(Foto: M.A. Guerra)



## Week's Seminars

Tuesday, January 12, noon seminar speaker at the Tupper Center will be Allen Herre, STRI

*More about Mutualisms*

## Bambi Seminar

Thursday, January 14, Bambi seminar speaker at BCI will be Coenraad Krijger, Linden University

*Local Factors and Diversity in Panamanian Drosophila Communities.*

Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call the BCI at tel. 272-2124 or E-mail: Bambi

## Arrivals

- Marion. Petrie, University of Newcastle, Jan 7 -14 to collaborate with Michael Jennions' project, in Gamboa.
- George Pearson, STRI 10-week fellow from the University of

Kansas, Jan 11 - Mar 5, to study North and South American Paleonindian expansions and interactions across the Panamanian doorway, at Ancon.

- Alexandre Kadjevic, McGill University, Jan 11 - Feb 15, to work with Catherine Potvin on the effects of CO<sup>2</sup> enrichment on carbon storage and species growth in a tropical mixed-species

plantation ecosystem, on mainland.

- Walter Carson, University of Pittsburg, Jan 11 - Apr 16, to continue research on the mammal and insect control on tropical forest diversity, at BCI and Gigante.
- Jared Wilson, Jan 13 - Jun 20, to work with George Angehr on the

## Neal G. Smith Appointed Scientist Emeritus

### *Neal G. Smith Nombrado Científico Emérito*

Effective January 1999 Neal G. Smith will become Staff Scientist Emeritus. He will continue to pursue his investigations of *Urania - Omphalea* interactions and to advise students and visitors from his office in the Tupper Center.

Dr. Smith began his career with the Smithsonian Institution in 1963 when he was appointed as a biologist for the Canal Zone Biological Area. Among his many distinguished contributions are the classical investigations into the complex host-parasite relationships illustrated by oropendolas and their cowbird nest parasites; examinations of the hawk and vulture migrations between Central and South America; and the chemical ecology of insect-plant interactions. These later studies were pioneering to the many studies of hostplant secondary chemistry, which have developed at STRI in recent years.

Dr. Smith has served as advisor to a number of pre and post-doctoral

students at STRI, many of which have become principal figures in New World ecology and animal behavior. Dr. Smith is one of the most knowledgeable naturalists of the isthmian region. We are fortunate that he will continue to make his enormous knowledge available to new students and visiting scientists at STRI ••• A partir de enero de 1999, Neal G. Smith ha sido nombrado científico emérito del cuerpo de investigadores de STRI. Smith continuará llevando a cabo sus investigaciones sobre las interacciones de la *Urania - Omphalea* y ofrecerá asesoría a estudiantes y académicos visitantes desde su oficina en el Centro Tupper.

El Dr. Smith comenzó su carrera con la Institución Smithsonian en 1963 al ser nombrado biólogo en el Area Biológica de la Zona del Canal (Canal Zone Biological Area). Entre sus más distinguidas contribuciones se encuentran las investigaciones clásicas sobre la compleja relación

entre huésped y hospesé ilustradas por las oropendolas y sus parásitos los garrapateros de nido; los estudios sobre las migraciones de halcones y vuitres entre América Central y Suramérica; y la ecología química de las interacciones entre insectos y plantas. Estos últimos sirvieron como estudios pioneros para numerosas investigaciones sobre la química de plantas hospederas que se han desarrollado en STRI en años recientes.

El Dr. Smith ha asesorado un gran número de estudiantes de pre y postdoctorado en STRI, muchos de los cuales se han convertido en figuras prominentes en los campos de ecología y comportamiento animal en el Nuevo Mundo. Neal Smith es uno de los naturalistas con mayor conocimiento de la región istmeña. Somos afortunados que Smith continuará brindando s extensos conocimientos a estudiantes y científicos visitantes en STRI.

*Ira Rubinoff*

Legacy Project, at Tupper.

- Susan McRae, STRI postdoctoral fellow from Cambridge University, Jan 14 - Dec 31, to study the ecological factors affecting reproductive strategies in a tropical population of Moorhens, at Tupper.
- Lucy Reiss, Cambridge University, Jan 14 - Apr 30, to work with Susan McRae, at Tupper.
- Josephine Babin, STRI short-term fellow from Louisiana State University, Jan 15 - Apr 15, to study avian contact zones and speciation on the Isthmus of Panama, at Naos.
- Heinrich Krause, University of Dusseldorf, Jan 15 - Feb 28, to study photoinhibition of photosynthesis in leaves of tropical plants, at Tupper.
- Melvin Tyree, Jan 15-28, to study the integration of canopy and

hydraulic architecture in *Psychotria* species along light and moisture gradients, on BCI.

## *Felicitaciones*

A José y Teresa Barahona, por el nacimiento de su hijo José Javier Barahona, el 31 de diciembre. José Javier pesó 7 libras 8 onzas, con 50.5 cm de longitud.

## **Volunteers Available** *Voluntarios Disponibles*

The Office of Education has received applications from persons interested in participating during the coming months in the "Behind-the-Scenes" Volunteer Program. If you need

volunteer assistance please send a description of your project to Adriana Bilgray ••• La Oficina de Educación ha recibido aplicaciones de personas interesadas en participar en el Programa de Voluntarios "Tras Bastadores" durante los próximos meses. Si usted necesita asistencia voluntaria, favor comunicarse enviar una descripción de su proyecto a Adriana Bilgray.

## **Take a Note**

- New fax number for the STRI Library: (+507)212-8147
- Jaime Flores Beeper: 873-0588
- Alejandro Caballero: Beep 264-5155
- Marcos Guerra Beeper: 194-7162
- Raineldo Urriola Cell: 639-6664