

# STRI news '99

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Weekly Newsletter

Panama, July 09, 1999

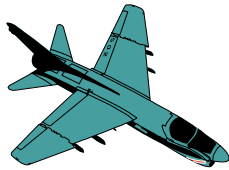
## Tupper Seminar

Tuesday, July 13, noon seminar speaker will be Louis S. Santiago, University of Florida

*Leaf Functional Characteristics Along Environmental Gradients in Tropical Forest*

### Abstract:

Similar interspecific relationships between leaf functional characteristics (photosynthetic capacity, life-span, nitrogen content and thickness) have been found in plant species ranging from alpine tundra to tropical forest. At smaller scales, such as regional environmental gradients, these relationships still apply, but less is known about how within-site variation in leaf functional characteristics compares to the local diversity of species. The number of woody species in tropical forests tends to increase with precipitation. Evaluation the diversity of leaf functional characteristics as it varies with species diversity may help explain observed species diversity gradients. Theories related to leaf physiological characteristics, the causes of diversity gradients in tropical forests and why functional diversity may decrease as species diversity increases will be discussed.



the BCI at 272-2124 or E-mail: Bambi

## Arrival

### S

- Rebecca Coe, University of Cambridge, U.K., Jul 12 - Sep 11, to work with Christopher Jiggins on the ecology and genetics of the species boundary in a neotropical butterfly, in Gamboa.
- Arjen Vont't Hof, University of Groningen, Netherlands, Jul 13 - Nov 2, to study the communicative function of wing coloration and the proximate control of egg hatch in the damselfly *Megaloprepus coerulatus*, on BCI.
- Joseph Schaffer, Texas A & M University, Jul 14 - Aug 14, to conduct studies on Panamanian Hemiptera, in Gamboa and Fortuna.
- James Woolley, Texas A & M University, Jul 14 - Aug 14, to carry out a monographic research in parasitic Hymenoptera, in Gamboa and Fortuna.
- Ola Fincke, University of Oklahoma, Jul 16-26, to study the communicative function of wing coloration and approximate control of egg hatch in the damselfly *Megaloprepus coerulatus* on BCI.



## Departures

- Eldredge Bermingham, Jul 10 - Aug 29, to Madrid, Spain, to collaborate with colleagues at the

Museo Nacional. Then will also attend to the meetings of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology in Barcelona, as invited speaker.

- Haris Lessios, Jul 10 - Aug 7, to Greece, on vacation.

## Publications



Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 1999.

"Diario del botánico Julian Steyermark en el lago Alhajuela y Chepo, 1934". *"Epocas" Segunda Era* 14(6):2-3.

Heckadon-Moreno, Stanley. 1999.

"Un rincón de selva tropical en el corazón de la capital". *En Exclusiva: Banco General* 1999:24-30.

Korpelainen, Helena, and Salazar

Allen, Noris. 1999. "Genetic variation in three species of epiphytic Octoblepharum (Leucobryaceae)". *Nova Hedwigia* 68(3-4):281-290. *Evolution: Vol. 53, No. 3, pp. 806-817.*

Lessios, Harilaos A., Kessing, Bailey D., Robertson, D. Ross and Paulay, G. 1999.

"Phylogeography of the Pantropical Sea Urchin *Eucidaris* in relation to land barriers and

## Bambi Seminar

Please see your bulletin board for information on the next Bambi seminar. Transportation and dinner reservations are essential. Please call

ocean current." *Evolution* 53(3): 806-817.

Matsuse, I.T., Lim, Y.A., Hattori, M., Correa A., Mireya D. and Gupta, Mahabir P. 1999. "A search for anti-viral properties in Panamanian medicinal plants. The effects on HIV and its essential enzymes." *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 64: 15-22.

## Working on Boats *Trabajo en Botes*



Members of the STRI staff working on boats in both the Atlantic and the Pacific, must

carry STRI ID, cedula, or other I.D. documents to show the Panamanian coastal patrol, if required. All STRI boats should be identified with the Smithsonian logo. If you plan to work near the Colón area, please contact STRI marine superintendent, José Espino, who will inform the "Servicio Marítimo Nacional" on your research activities in the area ••• Miembros del personal de STRI que trabajan en lanchas en el Atlántico o el Pacífico siempre deben portar su carnet de identificación de STRI, su cédula u otros documentos de identificación, en caso de que sean requeridos por la patrulla costera panameña. Todas las embarcaciones de STRI deben estar identificadas con el logo del Smithsonian. Para aquellos que planean trabajar cerca del área de Colón, deberán comunicarse con José Espino, superintendente marino de STRI, quien informará al Servicio Marítimo Nacional sobre sus actividades de investigación en el área.

## Research Support

The Center for Field Research (CFR)

# STRI Interactions Symposium

Friday, July 9, Tupper Conference Center • Program

### First Morning Session: 9:am

Allen Herre  
Opening Remarks  
Michael Jennions  
Desertion and parental care in a cichlid  
Jennifer Johns  
The effects of fragmentation on the pollination biology and fruit production in *Tabebuia rosea*, Bignoniaceae.  
Chris Jiggins  
On the genetics of hybrid sterility: the dangers of playing away  
Wiebe Kooistra  
Adaptive radiation in the calcified green seaweed *Halimeda*.  
Betsy Arnold  
Endophytes are where you find them, or are they?

### Second Morning Session, 11:00 am

Jim Dalling  
Cabbages, hatracks and trash baskets: conflicts between light and nutrient capture in the understory of a montane forest  
Manuela Giovanetti  
Encounters in the nest: a solitary wasp experience  
Steve Phelps  
Predation rumors among tungara frogs: Do frog species eavesdrop?  
Michelle Waycott  
Seagrasses interacting with their environmentsome genetic tales  
Hector Barrios  
Vertical and Horizontal Biodiversity of Gall Makers and Leaf Mining Insects in the Tropical Rain Forest

### First Afternoon Session, 1:00 pm

John Christy  
Interspecific sexual selection: Avoiding sexual harassment and predation at the beach.

Helene MullerLandau  
How canopy trees affect the light environments and how saplings respond to it  
Brian Wysor  
Geminate marine macroalgae of Panama  
Sue McRae  
Where there are moorhens, there are more hens: conspecific brood parasites in the tropics  
Bill Wcislo  
Ants and bees as predator and prey: behavior as the lingua franca of things ecological and evolutionary

### Second Afternoon Session, 3:00 pm

Biff Bermingham  
Historical Interactions: Examples from Caribbean Birds and Neotropical Fishes  
Nelida Gomez  
How to construct a defensive structure using waste materials: economic material utilization or just a crappy attempt at defense?  
Chris Dick  
Reconstructing neotropical forest history: implications for understanding current ecological interactions  
Kyle Summers  
So many frogs, so little time, or fatboy frog loses again.  
Nico Franz  
How to study coevolution? Weevils as pollinating seed predators of Cyclanthaceae.  
James Nieh  
The Quest for the Bee proto-dance language: a study of *Melipona panamica*

and Earthwatch Institute announce opportunities for field grants ranging from \$10,000 - 130,000 per year using 20 or more volunteers CFR is currently reviewing proposals for

Earthwatch field grants for multi-year studies in the biological, physical, and social sciences. Long-term and multi-disciplinary studies are encouraged. Earthwatch

is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1971 to fund field research, promote communication between scholars and the public, improve science education, and enhance public understanding of pressing environmental and social problems. For more information on CFR opportunities please visit the web page <http://www.earthwatch.org/cfr/cfr.html>