

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 23, noon seminar speaker will be Jens Christian Svenning, University of Aarhus, Denmark

The importance of microhabitat variation for the population and community ecology of rain forest palms

This talk presents the work on the ecology of palms in Amazonian Ecuador that I carried out for my doctoral dissertation from University of Aarhus, Denmark (November 1999). The results highlight the importance of small-scale heterogeneity in topographic and canopy conditions for the local distribution and population ecology of rain forest palms.

Bambi seminar

Please check your e-mail for information about the next Bambi seminar on BCI.

Arrivals

Hironobu Fukami, visiting scientist from the National Institute of Genetics in Japan, May 20 - Nov 15, 2001, to conduct a reproductive and genetic study on evolution of corals in the family Acroporidae, at Naos.

Irby Lovette, 14 students from the University of Pennsylvania and a Panamanian student from the University of Panama, May 21 - Jun 6, to participate in a field course based in Gamboa.

Yanerys Ramos, intern from Cornell University, May 22 - Aug 22, to study tungara female choice, in Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

May 19, 2000



SI undersecretary for Science J. Dennis O'Connor (center) conversing with Anthony Coates and Ira Rubinfiff, after completing a series of meetings with research scientists at STRI.

Photo: Marcos A. Guerra

J. Dennis O'Connor, subsecretario para Ciencias del Smithsonian (centro) conversa con Anthony Coates y Ira Rubinfiff, luego de completar una serie de reuniones con científicos investigadores.

Anthony Coates accepts position as deputy undersecretary for Science at SI

Director Ira Rubinfiff has announced the resignation of deputy director Anthony Coates, to accept the position of deputy undersecretary for Science at SI effective September 2000. Coates has served as STRI's deputy director since 1991. Before that he was professor and vice president for Research and Graduate Studies at George Washington University. At STRI, he and Jeremy Jackson lead the Panama Paleontology Project (PPP) that studies the ecological and evolutionary consequences of the rise of the Isthmus. Among his most recent publications are *Evolution and the Environment in Tropical America* (University of Chicago Press, 1996), *Central America: A Natural and Cultural History* (Yale University Press, 1997), and *A Paleobiotic Survey of Caribbean Faunas from the Neogene of the Isthmus of Panama* (Allen Press, 1999).

Coates was a major architect in the STRI 2000 transition and new marine biology initiative on the Caribbean, and was instrumental for the Panamanian Tourism-Conservation-Research initiative. He was responsible for STRI's scientific programs and played a major role in the interpretation of this research through public programs. Coates will continue to participate in the PPP and will remain as adjunct member of the STRI scientific staff. His broad experience as professor and research scientist will be invaluable in helping Secretary Small fulfill his new vision for the Smithsonian Institution.

El director Ira Rubinfiff anunció la renuncia del subdirector Anthony Coates para aceptar la posición de subsecretario asistente para Ciencias en el Smithsonian, a partir de Septiembre, 2000. Coates empezó como subdirector de STRI en 1991. Previamente era profesor y vice-presidente para Investigación y Estudios de Postgrado en la Universidad George Washington. En STRI, él y Jeremy Jackson liderizan el Proyecto de Paleontología de Panamá, PPP, que estudia las consecuencias ecológicas y evolutivas del surgimiento del Istmo. Entre sus publicaciones más recientes están *Evolution and the Environment in Tropical America* (University of Chicago Press, 1996), *Central America: A Natural and Cultural History* (Yale University Press, 1997) y *A Paleobiotic Survey of Caribbean Faunas from the Neogene of the Isthmus of Panama* (Allen Press 1999).

Coates fue actor principal en la transición de STRI 2000 y la nueva iniciativa de biología marina en el Caribe, y tuvo un papel muy importante en el desarrollo del proyecto Turismo-Conservación-Investigación de Panamá. Estaba encargado de los programas de investigación en STRI y trabajó en interpretación a través de programas públicos. Coates mantendrá su participación en el PPP y se mantendrá como miembro asociado al personal científico de STRI. Su amplia experiencia como profesor e investigador serán de inmenso valor asistiendo al Secretario Small en la realización de su nueva visión para el Smithsonian.

More arrivals

Christopher Balakrishnan, Boston University, May 22 - Jun 15, to study the genetic consequences of the lek mating system in manakins, in Gamboa.

Ximena Bernal, intern from Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, May 22 - Aug 22, to join tungara project in Gamboa.

Jerome Howard, University of New Orleans, May 22 - Jun 20, to work with Walter Carson and Steve Hubbell on mammal and insect control on tropical forest diversity, at BCI and Gigante.

Christopher Jennings, Cornell University, May 22 - Aug 17, to study the tungara female choice, in Gamboa.

Henry and Anne Howden, Canadian Museum of Nature, Bruce and Jocelyn Gill, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Patrick Sullivan, Florida, May 23 - Jun 9, to study the systematics and biology of Central American beetles with particular reference to Scarabaeoidea and Curculionoidea, in Chiriquí.

Bryan Eya and Daniel Curoe, Environmental Protection Agency, CA/California, May 24 - Jun 5, to study the taxonomy and bionomics of longicorn scarab, and passalid beetles endemic to Panama, on mainland.

Sixteen scientists from Latin America, Europe and the U.S., May 24-26, to participate at the Arawakan conference at Tupper.

Katharine Milton, University of California at Berkeley, May 25 - Jun 21, to work on the effects of parasites on a free-ranging howler monkey population, on BCI.

Departures

Allen Herre, May 23 - Jun 19, to the Netherlands, Scotland, Denmark and France, to present seminars.

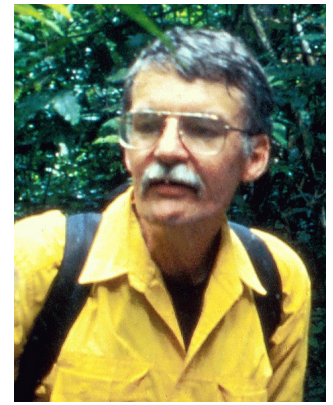
Haris Lessios, May 24 - Jun 4, to Brazil, to do research on echinoderms, in collaboration with Brazilian colleagues.

Bill Eberhard elected fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

The Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, AAAS, recently elected STRI scientist William Eberhard as one of its new fellows in the category "Evolutionary and Population Biology and Ecology". The AAAS is an honorary society that recognizes achievement in the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities, and conducts a varied program of projects and studies serving the needs of society. The new members, chosen for their distinguished contributions in these areas, represent 89 institutions in 22 states and 11 foreign countries. They will be inducted at a formal ceremony at the House of the Academy on Saturday, October 14, 2000, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

El Consejo administrativo de la Academia de Artes y Ciencias de los Estados Unidos, AAAS, eligió recientemente a William Eberhard, científico de STRI entre sus nuevos asociados, en la categoría de "Ecología y Biología Evolutiva y de Poblaciones". La AAAS es una asociación que reconoce los logros en las ciencias naturales, sociales, las artes y humanidades, y lleva a cabo un diverso programa de proyectos y estudios encaminados a servir las necesidades de la sociedad. Los nuevos miembros, escogidos por sus importantes contribuciones en estas áreas, representan 89 instituciones en 22 estados de los Estados Unidos, y otros 11 países. El día sábado, 14 de octubre de 2000, se llevará a cabo una ceremonia de iniciación formal para estos nuevos miembros y asociados a la AAAS, en la sede de la Academia en Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Bill Eberhard elegido por la Academia de Artes y Ciencias de los Estados Unidos



Georgina de Alba and Nérida Gómez accompany Javier Saracho, director of Environmental Education, and Federico Mathew, rector, Universidad Metropolitana de Puerto Rico, during their visit to the STRI "Disappearing amphibians" exhibit at the Tupper Center, on Tuesday, May 16. The purpose of their visit to STRI was to explore possibilities of academic collaboration, research internships, and students' participation in educational programs.

Georgina de Alba y Nérida Gómez acompañan a Javier Saracho, director de Educación Ambiental y a Federico Mathew, rector, Universidad Metropolitana de Puerto Rico, durante su visita a la exhibición "Desaparecen los anfibios" de STRI en el Centro Tupper, el martes 16 de mayo. El propósito de su visita a STRI fue explorar posibilidades de colaboración académica, becas de investigación y participación de estudiantes en programas educativos.

International conference on Arawak-speaking peoples in Amazonia

The conference "Comparative Arawakan histories: Rethinking language family and culture area in Amazonia", will be held in Panama, from Wed, May 24 through Frid, May 26, at the Tupper Conference Center. The conference, organized by Fernando Santos-Granero, STRI, and Jonathan D. Hill, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, will gather 16 specialists from Europe, Latin American and the U.S. that study the Arawak-speaking peoples of lowland South America. The main focus of the conference, sponsored by STRI and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, will be the interethnic processes of change responsible for today's patterns of linguistic, cultural, and political relations among Arawak-speakers, the most widespread language in the region.

Conferencia internacional sobre grupos de habla Arawak en la Amazonía

La conferencia "Historias comparativas Arawak: Repensando las nociones de la familia lingüística y área cultural en la Amazonía" se llevará a cabo en Panamá, del miércoles 24 al viernes 26 de mayo en el Centro de Conferencias Tupper. La conferencia, organizada por Fernando Santos-Granero, STRI, y Jonathan D. Hill, Universidad del Sur de Illinois en Carbondale, reunirá a 16 especialistas provenientes de Europa, Latinoamérica y Estados Unidos, que estudian los grupos de habla Arawak de las tierras bajas de Suramérica. El tema central de la conferencia, patrocinada por STRI y la Fundación Wenner-Gren para Estudios Antropológicos, serán los procesos interétnicos de cambio responsables por los patrones actuales en las relaciones políticas, lingüísticas y culturales de los grupos de habla Arawak, la lengua de mayor dispersión geográfica en la región