

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, May 30, noon seminar speaker will be Amy E. Faivre, Ohio State University

Ice, tea, and coffee: restoration ecology of prairie valerian and floral reproductive biology of Rubiaceae

Methods for the conservation and restoration of endangered species are being developed as habitats become lost and increasingly fragmented. Prairie valerian (*Valeriana ciliata*) is a rare or threatened species in both the history of the species and the habitat where it occurs; as well as current threats to the habitat. Allozyme electrophoresis was used to determine genetic diversity in prairie valerian populations at the edge of middle of its range.

For prairie valerian, as well as for the federally endangered species lakeside daisy and heterostylous Rubiaceae, understanding the intricacies of their floral reproductive biology is essential in their preservation. Floral reproductive biology was examined by identifying the incompatibility systems of these species and their effective pollinators. These ideas reflect some of my current research on BCI.

Bambi on Monday

Monday, May 29, Bambi seminar speaker will be Robert Dudley, University of Texas at Austin

Is alcoholism in modern humans an evolutionary hangover?

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



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama



Participants of the international conference, "Comparative Arawakan histories: Rethinking language family and culture area in Amazonia" held at the Tupper Center, from Wednesday, May 24 through Friday, May 26, gathered at the Corotú Plaza for the official group photo during the inaugural day.

Photo: Marcos A. Guerra

Los participantes de la conferencia internacional "Historias comparativas Arawak: Repensando las nociones de la familia lingüística y área cultural en la Amazonía" que se llevó a cabo del miércoles 24 al viernes 26 de mayo en el Centro Tupper, se reunieron para la foto oficial del grupo en la Plaza Corotú, durante el día inaugural de la conferencia.



BCI's Derby Day!

Bettina Engelbrecht holds a toad during the celebrations of Derby Day, on Saturday, May 13, Barro Colorado Island (Photo: BCI)

King and Queen:

Scott Mangan and Rachel Goeriz

Arrivals

Phyllis Coley and Tom Kursar, University of Utah, May 31 - Jun 20, to continue long term studies of herbivory and pathogen damage to tropical trees, on BCI.

Michael Ryan, STRI's research associate from the University of Texas, Jun 1-30, to work on the tungara project, in Gamboa.

Scott Nichols, University of California at Berkeley, Jun 1 - Aug 31, to work on phylogeography of marine sponge populations on both sides of the Americas, at Naos.

Cummings, Molly, short-term visitor from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Jun 1-15, to work on visual signaling of the tungara frog, in Gamboa.

Wayne Sousa and assistants Anne Beaulaurier, Jessica Shors, Jennifer Roelands and Galen Peracca, Jun 1 - Jul 5, to work on the patterns and mechanisms of canopy tree regeneration in a Caribbean mangrove forest, in Galeta.

Andy Jones, University of Georgia, Jun 2 - Aug 14, to conduct studies of seed dispersal in *Jacaranda coapia*, on BCI.

Douglas Colwell, Lethbridge Research Centre, Canada, Jun 2-17, to work with Katharine Milton on the effects of parasites on a gree-ranging howler monkey population, on BCI.

Mark Wishnie, Yale University, Jun 2 - Dec 15, to work on native species plantations on abandoned agricultural lands of the Panama Canal watershed area, in Gamboa



New director at the Natural Metropolitan Park

Effective June 1st, Néstor Correa will be the new executive director at the Natural Metropolitan Park, replacing Rita Spadafora. Correa graduated from Law School at the University of Panama, and has a master's degree in environmental policies and management from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain.

Nuevo director ejecutivo en el Parque Natural Metropolitano

A partir del 1ro de junio, Néstor Correa será el nuevo director ejecutivo del Parque Natural Metropolitano, en reemplazo de Rita Spadafora. Correa se graduó de derecho en la Universidad de Panamá, y tiene una maestría en política y gestión medioambiental de la Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, España.

New STRI publications

Backwell, Patricia, Christy, John H., Telford, Steven R., Jennions, Michael D., and Passmore, Neville I. 2000. "Dishonest signalling in a fiddler crab." *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 267: 719-724.

Collins, Laurel S., Aguilera, Orangel, Borne, Pamela F. and Cairns, Stephen D. 1999. "A paleoenvironmental analysis of the Neogene of Caribbean Panama and Costa Rica using several phyla." *Bulletins of American Paleontology* 357: 81-87.

Cotton, Mathew A. 1999. "Neogene planktic foraminiferal biochronology of the southern Central American Isthmus." *Bulletins of American Paleontology* 357: 61-80.

Dalling, James W., Lovelock, C.E. and Hubbell, Stephen P. 1999. "Growth responses of seedlings of two neotropical pioneer species to simulated forest gap environments." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 15: 827-839.

Dudley, Robert. 2000. "Evolutionary origins of human alcoholism in primate frugivory." *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 75(1): 3-15.

Engelbrecht, Bettina MJ., Velez, V., Tyree Melvin T. 2000 "Hydraulic conductance of two co-occurring neotropical understory shrubs with different habitat preferences." *Annals of Forest Science* 57: 201-208.

Inoue, T., Roubik, David W. and Suka, T. 1999. "Nestmate recognition in the stingless bee *Melipona panamica* (Apidae, Miliponini)." *Insectes Sociaux* 46: 208-218.

Nagamitsu, T., Momose, K., Inoue, T. and Roubik, David W. 1999. "Preference in flower visit and partitioning in pollen diets of stingless bees in an Asian tropical rain forest." *Population Ecology* 41: 195-202.

Novotny, V. and Basset, Yves. 2000. "Ecological characteristics of rare species in communities of tropical insect herbivores: pondering the mystery of singletons." *Oikos* 89: 564-572.

Piperno, Dolores R., Andres, Thomas C., and Stothert, Karen E. 2000. "Phytoliths in *Cucurbita* and other Neotropical Cucurbitaceae and their occurrence in early archaeological sites from the lowland American tropics." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 27: 193-208.

Summers, Kyle, Symula, Rebecca, Clough, Mark and Cronin, Thomas. 1999. "Visual mate choice in poison frogs." *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B* 266: 2141-2145.

Cumpleaños de mayo

Hely Cortez	2
Alana Domingo	2
Erika Garibaldo	2
Plinio Góndola	2
Nereida Hernández	2
Enrique Medianero	2
Argelis Ruiz	2
Rolando Pérez	4
Gabriel Abrego	7
Rigoberto González	10
Klaus Winter	10
Maritza del C. López	12
Maritza Perurena	15
Omar Sousa	16
Aureliano Valencia	16
Kevan Mantell	22
José Barahona	27
Carmen Galdames	27
Miguel Samaniego	27
Leo Van Valkenhoef	28
Eleuterio Santos	29
Carmen Sucre	30