

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, November 7, noon seminar speaker will be Nick Isaac, Department of Biology, Imperial College, UK

Size, speed and diversity: hypotheses testing in macroevolution

The extreme unevenness with which species are distributed amongst higher taxa is one of the most pervasive phenomena in biology. A number of theories have been proposed to explain this variation in species richness, although few have been tested rigorously. I discuss shortcomings of previous approaches and highlight some desirable properties of a new method, MacroCAIC. I use MacroCAIC to demonstrate the spurious nature of some previous analyses and present tests of macroevolutionary hypotheses in mammals.

Bambi seminar

Please check your bulletin board and GroupWise for information on the next Bambi seminar.

Arrivals

Noriyaki Osada, Kyoto University, Japan, Nov 7-15, to visit STRI facilities and consult with Kaoru Kitajima, on BCI and Tupper.

Kaoru Kitajima, University of Florida, Nov 10-16, to study the ecological and physiological role of silicate accumulation in leaves, at Tupper.

Training

Public information officer Mónica Alvarado completed an intensive two-week course given by the United Nations and Fundación Empretec Panamá, partially funded by BID, for the development of entrepreneurial skills, at APEDE, on Friday, October 27.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

November 2, 2000

Roubik interviewed by Reuters and *National Geographic*

Tim Gaynor (left) from Reuters, a news agency that sells to more than 25,000 periodicals around the world, visited STRI to interview David Roubik on the ecology of African honey bees (*Apiformes: Apidae; Apini*), on Tuesday, October 31. The *National Geographic* is also doing a follow-up of the *Explorer* television program that included "Beeman" featuring Roubik's research work on the spread of Africanized honey bees and its impact on the forest, also for a TV audience.



Photo: Marcos A. Guerra

Tim Gaynor (izquierda) de Reuters, agencia de noticias con más de 25,000 clientes alrededor del mundo, visitó STRI para entrevistar a David Roubik sobre la ecología de las abejas melíferas africanizadas (*Apiformes: Apidae; Apini*), el martes 31 de octubre. La *National Geographic* también está haciendo un seguimiento a *Explorer*, un programa de televisión que incluía "Beeman" [hombre abeja] presentando el trabajo de investigación de Roubik sobre la colonización de las abejas melíferas africanizadas y su impacto en el bosque, también para la audiencia televisiva.

Visit by External Review Committee

*An External Review Committee including five scientists from the United States and Europe visited STRI to assess the quality of the Institute's scientific programs, from October 26-30.

"I wish to thank all of you who participated in the preparations for and in the meetings with the STRI External Review Committee*. A draft report has been completed and the committee unanimously agrees that STRI is a great institution with a consistent record of contributions at a level of the top academic departments in the United States and Europe in the fields of ecology, evolution, behavior, and anthropology. Congratulations, to you all—we can be proud of our accomplishments and for many of us it is an affirmation of our life's work. I will share the final report with you as soon as it is completed and signed by the committee members. Thanks for a job well done." Ira Rubinoff

"Deseo agradecer a todos los que participaron en los preparativos y en las reuniones con el Comité Evaluador Externo de STRI* Ellos han terminado un borrador donde aseguran unánimemente que STRI es una gran institución con un récord consistente de contribuciones al nivel de los mejores departamentos académicos de los Estados Unidos y Europa en ecología, evolución, comportamiento y

*Un comité evaluador externo conformado por cinco científicos de los Estados Unidos y Europa visitaron STRI para medir la calidad de los programas científicos del Instituto, del 26-30 de octubre.

New publications

Breed, M. D., McGlynn, T. P., Stocker, E. M., and Klein, A. N. 1999. "Thief workers and variation in nestmate recognition behavior in a ponerine ant, *Ectatomma ruidum*." *Insectes Sociaux* 46(4): 327-331.

Cairns, Stephen D. 1999. "Stratigraphic distribution of Neogene Caribbean azooxanthellae corals (Scleractinia and Stylasteridae)." *Bulletins of American Paleontology* 357: 109-118.

Kursar, Thomas A., and Coley, Phyllis D. 1999. "Contrasting modes of light acclimation in two species of the rainforest understory." *Oecologia* 121(4): 489-498.

Ostling, Annette, Harte, John, Green, Jessica and Condit, Richard. 2000. "Self-similarity and clustering in the spatial distribution of species." *Science* 290(5492).

Tobin, Michael F., Lopez, Omar R., and Kursar, Thomas A. 1999. "Responses of tropical understory plants to a severe drought: tolerance and avoidance of water stress." *Biotropica* 31(4): 570-578.

Zotz, Gerhard. 1999. "What are backshoots good for? Seasonal changes in mineral, carbohydrate and water content of different organs of the epiphytic orchid, *Dimerandra emarginata*." *Annals of Botany* 84(6): 791-798.

Zotz, Gerhard, Bermejo, Patricia, and Dietz, Hansjoerg. 1999. "The epiphyte vegetation of *Annona glabra* on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Journal of Biogeography* 26(4): 761-776.

antropología. Mis felicitaciones a todos—podemos estar orgullosos de nuestros logros, y para muchos de nosotros, esto es una confirmación del trabajo de nuestras vidas. Tan pronto se termine el informe final y sea firmado por los miembros del comité, lo compartiré con ustedes. Gracias por un trabajo bien hecho." Ira Rubinoff

Carol F. Jopling (1917-2000)

Carol F. Jopling, 83, librarian and anthropologist, died in Chevy Chase after a stroke, on October 13. Jopling worked as chief librarian at STRI from 1981-1984. She obtained a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 1973, and was an authority on the anthropological study of architecture. She authored *Art and Aesthetic in Primitive Societies*, *Churches of Somerset County, Maryland*, and *Puerto Rican Houses in Sociohistorical Perspective*, that received a prize from the Pioneer America Society.

Welcome to STRI

Recently, Christie Young joined STRI's Center for Tropical Forest Science as program specialist based in Washington DC. She graduated from Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies where she completed a master's project on the effects of illegal extraction on the population dynamics of *Aquilaria crassna*, a valuable non-timber forest product in the Khao Yai Forest Dynamics Plot of Thailand. Young is interested in the interface between local communities and tropical forest ecology and management and has worked on ecological research projects in Ecuador, Hawaii, Mexico, and Brazil.

Call for papers: 3rd International Canopy Conference

The Queensland government in Australia and the Smithsonian Institution are organizing the Third International Canopy Conference in Cairns, Australia, to be held on June, 2002. The Conference managers are STRI scientist Joe Wright (representing SI) and Nigel Stork, from the CRC Rainforest (representing the Queensland government) The conference theme is Science, Policy and Utilization bringing together scientists, environment managers and policy-makers concerned with the discovery and sustainable use of forests around the world. Following is a list of possible topics (proposals for Symposia and papers on other topics will be welcomed):

• Animal-plant interactions • Australian perspectives and issues • Biodiversity patterns (vertebrates and invertebrates) • Canopy architecture • Conservation and policy • Disturbance • Economics and utilization (e.g. ecotourism, ecosystem services, pharmaceuticals and other products from the canopy, horticulture etc.) • Environment and the people • Environment and ecology • Epiphytes, vines and lianes • Gas exchange • Hydrology, meteorology and the physico-chemical environment • Impacts of changing climate • Indigenous people and forests • Launch of a global canopy initiative • Methods and techniques of research • Processes of water, carbon and energy • Exchange in complex, multi-species canopies • Regional issues. Eileen.Domagala@premiers.qld.gov.au



STRI delegation at the 9th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bali, Indonesia: Arturo Dominici, Luis D'Croz, Juan Maté, Ross Robertson, Haris Lessios and Héctor Guzmán (not in the photo)

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