

SEMINARS - ANCON CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday, **September 19**, noon seminar speaker will be **TIMOTHY COLLINS**, STRI postdoctoral fellow.

Trans-Isthmian Comparisons of
Species Pairs: A Mitochondrial
Molecular Metronome?

Abstract: The Pliocene emergence of the Isthmus of Panama resulted in the synchronous isolation of conspecific populations of marine taxa in the Western Atlantic and Eastern Pacific. The living descendants of these isolated populations, which are known as geminate (twin) species, present an excellent opportunity to measure rates of molecular evolution and rate variation. The mitochondrial DNAs (mtDNA) of three geminate pairs of prosobranch snails, in the genera *Vasum*, *Plicopurpura*, and *Melongenina*, were assayed using RFLP (Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism) techniques, the first study of this type within prosobranch snails. The general features of prosobranch mtDNA, the pattern of variation in rates of evolution, and the implications of these results for the molecular clock will be discussed.

At 6:30 p.m., **GORDON ORIAN**S, University of Washington and president of the OTS, will give an evening seminar. Refreshments will be served, and there will be a late boat for BCI residents.

Territorial Dominance: Why Does
the Resident Always Win?

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, **September 26**, noon seminar speaker will be **TOMAS ARIAS**, World Health Organization Collaborating Centre.

Population Genetics and
Pharmacology of Three
Amerindian Tribes of Panama: A
Search of Ethnic Identities in Drug
Response.

REMINDER

GORDON ORIANS will give a seminar on BCI at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, **September 18**.

Treefall Gaps and Tropical Species
Richness.

ARRIVALS

September 18, **STEVEN TRAVERS**, to work with E. Fischer in San Blas for one year.

September 18 - 23, **ENRIQUE BUCHER**, Instituto de Zoología Aplicada, Argentina, on behalf of the MacArthur Foundation, to meet with officials of the Kuna Employees Association, who are grant recipients. Dr. Bucher will also meet with STRI staff and Panama conservation group representatives.

September 22, **JOSE LUIS MACHADO**, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, to work with Alan Smith on drought responses in tropical forest plants on BCI for one year.

September 19, **ALAN SMITH**, STRI staff, to work on research projects for one week.

September 19 - 27, **KLAUS WINTER**, Universität Würzburg, West Germany, to visit STRI facilities and consult with STRI staff.

DEPARTURES

September 15 - October 1, **RICHARD COOKE**, to Costa Rica to visit the National Museum and the Universidad de Costa Rica.

STRI EXHIBITION RECEPTION

A reception for the STRI exhibition *Parting the Green Curtain: The Evolution of Tropical Biology in Panama* was held Tuesday evening, **September 12**, in Washington, D.C. The event was very well attended, and Drs. Hoffman and Rubinoff made brief remarks. There was also an excellent turnout for the initial press briefing; 19 reporters were present.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE
NOMINATION

ERIC FISCHER, STRI Deputy Director, was selected to attend a prestigious management training program for US and foreign, government and private, senior executives at the Federal Executive Institute in Virginia in June 1990. Only two Smithsonian employees per year are so honored.

FROM THE PERSONNEL OFFICE / DE LA
OFICINA DE PERSONAL

All full-time employees, either temporary or indefinite, federal or private roll, are reminded that the Smithsonian Institution offers a voluntary Group Accidental and Dismemberment Program. You may select any amount of insurance from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$500,000 in multiples of \$10,000. Rates are much lower than for private insurance; benefits are provided for accidental death and dismemberment and permanent total disability. We ask that those who have not taken advantage of this benefit give it their careful consideration. For more information, call Carmen Sucre, Tivoli.

Se les recuerda a todos los empleados de tiempo completo, ya sean temporales o permanentes, federales o de fondos privados, que el Smithsonian Institution ofrece un programa de grupo, voluntario, para Accidentes y Desmembramiento, en beneficio de los empleados y sus familiares. Se puede elegir desde una cobertura mínima de \$10,000 hasta un máximo de \$500,000, en múltiples de \$10,000. El costo de este seguro es mucho menor que el de un seguro privado, y los beneficios proporcionados son por muerte accidental, desmembramiento e incapacidad total y permanente. Le sugerimos a aquellos que aún no han aprovechado esta oportunidad, que le den su detenida consideración. Para mayor información llamar a Carmen Sucre, Tivoli.

AUDUBON NATURE FAIR / FERIA
AUDUBON

The Panama Audubon Society's 4th Annual Nature Fair will be held in **Gamboa** on Saturday, **September 23**. The STRI Education & Conservation Office is requesting volunteers. Interested in participating? Call 62-2014.

La Sociedad Audubon de Panamá celebrará su 4ta Feria Anual de la Naturaleza en el poblado de **Gamboa** el sábado, **23 de septiembre**. La Oficina de Educación y Conservación de STRI está buscando voluntarios para el evento. ¿Le interesa participar? Puede llamar al 62-2014.

STRI LIBRARY NEWS

ANGEL AGUIRRE will be in the United States in training and then on vacation from **October 9 thru November 10**. During this period, the STRI Library will not be conducting database searches. Interlibrary loan requests will be on a limited basis, processed as staff is available. All outstanding requests will be processed during the first week in October, so that no new requests will be accepted after September 29. New requests for database searches may be submitted again beginning on November 13. Thank you for your cooperation.

STRI ACTIVITIES



Representatives from INRENARE's Dirección de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre made formal presentation to STRI of the audiovisual *La Amenazada Fauna Silvestre Panameña*. At the extreme left and right are Prof. Dimas Botello and Lic. Rogelio Samudio from INRENARE, respectively; G. de Alba and A. Roman, center. (Photo by Carl Hansen)

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATIONS

All STRI staff, fellows, associates and visitors, please send reprints of papers resulting from STRI research, published between October 1988 and September 1989, to Maria Luz Jimenez at Ancon, for annual STRI Bibliography. Your prompt reply will be much appreciated.

POSITION OPEN

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is searching for an Academic Coordinator to manage OTS programs in support of field research, graduate training, and environmental education in Costa Rica. Candidates should have postgraduate credentials in a relevant discipline such as tropical biology, forestry, agroecology/agroforestry, natural resource management, environmental education, or environmental policy, as well as substantial field experience in Latin America. Fluent Spanish and English and good writing ability are required. Applications, including a CV, statement of interests and supporting materials, should arrive by **September 29**. If interested, write Resident Director, OTS, Apdo. 676-2050, San Pedro Montes de Oca, Costa Rica.



STRI was one of the sponsors of the First Natural Photography Competition held by the Dirección de Asuntos Estudiantiles of the Universidad de Panama. Seen in the photo is one of the winners receiving a certificate from the manager of the Kodak Professional Lab. (Photo by Marcos Guerra)

Chicken Nudist Colonies

