

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tue, Oct 11, 4pm seminar speaker will be Stephen Williams

Macroecology in the mountains of the Australian wet tropics: the impacts of global climate change on rainforest biodiversity

Bambi

Please consult GroupWise for information on the next Bambi talk on BCI.

Paleo-Talk

Wed, Oct 12, Paleo-Talk speaker will be Aaron O'dea, STRI, at the CTPA, Ancon
Environmental change preceded Caribbean mass extinction by two million years

Arrivals

Kate McCulloh, Oregon State University, to study the functional convergence and constraints in regulation of transpiration and carbon assimilation in tropical forest canopy trees, on BCI, Gamboa, and the Canopy Crane Access Systems.

Irene Mendoza, University of Granada, Spain, to conduct a comparison of Mediterranean and tropical woody-species diversity patterns, at Tupper.

Taewon Kim, Seoul National University, Korea, to study the behavior, ecology and evolution of fiddler crabs genus *Uca*, at Naos.

Justin Niedzialek, University of Connecticut, to study water, energy, and biogeochemical budgets in the humid tropics, on BCI, Tupper and Gamboa.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

October 7, 2005



New species of tonguefish found in the Gulf of Chiriquí

Recent collecting of fishes and invertebrates in the environs of Coiba Island, Panama, during April–June 2003 expeditions of STRI's *R.V. Urracá* yielded a new species to science, *Symphurus ocellaris* (Pleuronectiformes: Cynoglossidae), a shallow-water ringtail tonguefish, with a standard length of 73mm.

D. Ross Robertson, STRI marine scientist who is co-author of *Fishes of the Tropical Eastern Pacific* and the CD information system *Shorefishes of the tropical eastern Pacific*, collected the new species in a sand bottom of 20m depth. Robertson and Thomas A. Munroe from SI's National Systematics Laboratory, described the new species in the September issue of the

Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington (vol. 118: 576–581).

The photos show a 73.2mm female and a digital radiograph of the anterior region of the specimen.

Recientes colectas de peces e invertebrados en los alrededores de Isla Coiba, Panamá, durante expediciones del *R.V. Urracá* de STRI en los meses de abril y junio de 2003, resultaron en una especie nueva para la ciencia, *Symphurus ocellaris* (Pleuronectiformes: Cynoglossidae), un lenguado con cola de anillo de aguas someras, con una longitud estándar de 73mm.

D. Ross Robertson, científico marino de STRI y co-autor de



Peces del Pacífico Oriental Tropical y el sistema de información en CD *Peces costeros de Pacífico oriental tropical*, colectó la especie nueva en un fondo arenoso a 20 metros de profundidad.

Robertson, junto con Thomas A. Munroe del Laboratorio Nacional de Sistemática del Smithsonian, describieron la especie en el número de septiembre de *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* (vol. 118: 576–581).

Las fotos muestran una hembra de 73.2mm y una radiografía digital de la región anterior del espécimen.

Departures

Stanley Heckadon to New York, to visit Columbia University and to use the archives at the American Museum of Natural History.

Haris Lessios, to Washington, DC, for meetings at SI where he will participate in a committee to evaluate proposals for SI funds.

Ira Rubinoff, on official business in New York, and to work with colleagues at the University of Kiel.

New publications

Poulsen, Michael, Cafaro, M., Boomsma, Jacobus J., and Currie, Cameron R. 2005. "Specificity of the mutualistic association between actinomycete bacteria and two sympatric species of *Acromyrmex* leaf-cutting ants." *Molecular Ecology* 14(11): 3597-3604.

Whinnett, Alaine, Zimmermann, Marine, Willmott, Keith R., Herrera, Nimiadina, Mallarino, Ricardo, Simpson, Fraser, Joron, Mathieu, Lamas, Gerardo, and Mallet, James. 2005. "Strikingly variable divergence times inferred across an Amazonian butterfly 'suture zone'." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London)* B Online.

From OIT

Tip: Always check your context and server information before trying to access the network. Click on the advance button of the login window to verify this. If you are not sure what your login information is, call our Help Desk for assistance.



The Culebra Crew

Inez Campbell is back in Culebra, after completing her master's degree in Marine Resource Development and Protection with the thesis *The role of local communities in the designation of a marine protected area in Las Perlas Archipelago, Panama*, at Heriot Watt University, Scotland.

The Culebra crew, Campbell, Lidia de Valencia and Dayra Navarro moved temporarily to the Surfside facility at Naos, while the bunkers undergo construction work to be interconnected.



Training for Tourism Police recruits at Galeta

Fifty young recruits of Colón Tourism Police from town and coastal villages of the province of Colon completed two courses on the importance of coastal marine habitats of the Caribbean and the work of STRI, held at Galeta Point Marine Laboratory. The force is under the command of major Belkys Vega. Both seminars were a joint effort of Panama's Institute of Tourism (IPAT), the National Police of Panama and STRI. Benjamín Ordóñez, intern Liz Marie Hernández,

Jorge Ventocilla moved to Tívoli, where OCAPP has its headquarters. Ventocilla returns to his previous position of Environmental Education specialist, providing support to public programs.

Inez Campbell regresó a Culebra, luego de completar su grado de maestría en Desarrollo de Recursos Marinos y Protección, con la tesis *El papel de las comunidades locales en la designación de un área marina protegida en el Archipiélago de Las Perlas, Panamá* en Heriot Watt University, Escocia.

El equipo de Culebra, Campbell, Lidia de Valencia y Dayra Navarro se han mudado temporalmente al Surfside en Naos, mientras se hacen trabajos de construcción en los búnkers para interconectarlos.

Jorge Ventocilla se mudó al Tívoli, donde OCAPP tiene su sede. Vencilla regresa a su posición anterior de especialista en Educación Ambiental, ofreciendo apoyo a los programas públicos.



nature guides Jairo Castillo, Jorge Morales, Laura Robinson and Omar Gómez; and Ricardo Thompson from Naos, Janel Villaláz from the University of Panama, and OCAPP's Olga Barrio contributed to the success of the courses. The sessions consisted of lectures and hands on field trips. Volunteer Marianne Akker took students on a long walk to learn about the most common plants along Galeta Road. An ample selection of the literature on the natural history of Colón was

given to the participants. None of the policemen had visited Galeta before or heard of STRI.

Cincuenta jóvenes reclutas de la Policía de Turismo de Colón provenientes de poblados costeros de la provincia de Colón completaron dos cursos sobre la importancia de hábitats costeros marinos del Caribe y sobre el trabajo de STRI, llevado a cabo en el Laboratorio de STRI en Punta Galeta. Esta fuerza trabaja bajo la supervisión de la mayor Belkys

Vega. Ambos seminarios fueron un esfuerzo en conjunto entre el Instituto Panameño de Turismo (IPAT), la Policía Nacional de Panamá y STRI. Benjamín Ordóñez, los guías naturalistas Jairo Castillo, Jorge Morales, Laura Robinson y Omar Gómez, Ricardo Thompson de Naos y Janzel Villalaz de la

Universidad de Panamá, y Olga Barrio de OCAPP contribuyeron al éxito de los cursos.

Las sesiones consistieron en conferencias y visitas de práctica en el campo. La voluntaria Marianne Akker condujo a los estudiantes a una caminata

extensa para enseñarles las plantas más importantes a lo largo del camino de Galeta. Se repartió una amplia selección de literatura sobre la historia natural de Colón a los participantes. Ninguno de los reclutas habían visitado Galeta antes ni habían oído hablar de STRI.



STRI Bookstore
Books, T-shirts, Mugs
and goodies

The STRI Bookstore launched its web page!

<http://intranet.stri.si.edu/bookstore/>

The STRI Bookstore launched its new web page to be seen at STRI's Intranet site. It includes all its books catalogued by subjects, and a different list for

STRI authors. It also includes other goodies, T-shirts, mugs, scientific supplies, and outdoor equipment. You are welcome to start doing your Christmas shopping early this time, from your own computer!



The Bookstore's official model is Ginnett Vargas Paz (at right). Bookstore's administrator Xiomara Avila wants to thank Ginnett and Juan Pérez from OIT, for their efforts to complete this site.



compras de Navidad temprano este año, ¡desde su propio escritorio!

La Librería de STRI puso en línea su nueva página de web, que puede ser vista en el sitio de Intranet de STRI. Incluye todos sus libros catalogados por materia, y una lista diferente

para los autores de STRI. También incluye otras cosas interesantes, T-shirts, tazas, suministros científicos y equipo para el campo. Lo invitamos a que comience a hacer sus

La modelo oficial de la Librería es Ginnett Vargas Paz. La administradora de la Librería, Xiomara Avila agradece a Ginnett y a Juan Pérez, de OIT, por todos sus esfuerzos.

Azuero's region scientific congress

The University of Panama at Chitré, Herrera province invited STRI scientists to participate at the First Azuero's Region Scientific Congress: Looking for scientific development in the Azuero region, to be held at the University of Panama's Azuero Regional Center from October 10-14. Ten works would be presented by STRI researchers associated with STRI in an

archaeology symposium organized by STRI's Richard Cooke. Interested please call 996-0649 or 996-0698 (Ext. 1117)

La Universidad de Panamá en Chitré, Herrera, invita a STRI a participar en el Primer Congreso Científico de la Región de Azuero: Buscando el desarrollo científico en la región de

Azuero, que se llevará a cabo en el Centro Regional de Azuero de la Universidad de Panamá, del 10 al 14 de octubre. Diez trabajos será presentados por investigadores asociados a STRI en un simposio de arqueología, organizado por Richard Cooke, de STRI. Interesados favor llamar al 996-0649 996-0698 (Ext. 1117)

STRI in the news

Radio Hogar broadcasted *Mes de los Océanos* with STRI's Lidia de Valencia, Marviva's Gabriela Etchelecy, Promar's José de Obaldía and ANAM's Ileana Pineda, on Saturday, October 1st.

Miscellaneous

Research supplies for free or for sale (if price indicated) before Oct 18, to pick up in Gamboa. Movistar cell phone with minutes, \$20; 4 aluminum ladders in fairly poor condition; 1m x 1m wood and mesh cages; No-see-um insect mesh, white and dark, \$1/yard; Beach umbrella; 3 new acrylic silicone sealant, \$1 each; Caulking gun; Hand saw; Tough plastic plant pots; 2 lunch-sized coolers; plastic ties; 2-hole heavy duty punch; 3 all purpose spray bottles; Flagging tape, paper (biodegradable) and plastics in yellow and orange, 50¢ roll; 20+ plastic sippy cups for children; Fishing net; Rubber boots 10 & 11; 3 machetes, \$1 each; Table lamps, \$2 each; Tangle trap - small can; Fruit basket, \$1; Various plastic containers for holding samples of small creatures; Slightly rusty bailing wire; Plastic jugs. Call 6562-0643 or email:

christine.miller@mso.umt.edu

STRI news

The *STRI news* is a weekly newsletter about news generated by STRI and its community members, produced by STRI's Public Information Office, OCAPP

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science in progress:

Are marine corridors necessary?

¿Se necesitan corredores marinos? Los biólogos marinos Juan Maté y Luis D' Croz estudian la conectividad genética entre especies de corales formadores de arrecifes en áreas protegidas costeras y marinas del Pacífico panameño.

Maté y D' Croz pondrán a prueba hipótesis de estrategias de reproducción sexual como mecanismos de flujo genético, barreras físicas como impedimentos de dispersión y eventos catastróficos como El Niño que reducen la diversidad genética.

Con recursos de SENACYT y STRI, Maté (derecha, al fondo) y colaboradores Tania Romero (atrás), Carlos Vega, Universidad de Panamá (izquierda), Irving Bethancourt (derecha), y Lisa Fidel y Marcos Guerra (no aparecen), recorrieron los arrecifes de coral de áreas costero-marinas protegidas de los parques nacionales de Coiba, el Golfo de Chiriquí y Cerro Hoya, y el Refugio de Vida Silvestre Isla Iguana el mes pasado, buscando seis especies de coral que se usarán en este estudio.

Los investigadores esperan usar sus resultados para proponer áreas para el establecimiento de corredores biológicos que conecten las áreas protegidas del Pacífico panameño. La creación de corredores marinos permiten la migración de especies emblemáticas como ballenas y tortugas marinas. Sin embargo, la mayor diversidad marina tropical se encuentra en arrecifes coralinos. Estos organismos son sésiles y dependen de las corrientes para dispersar sus gametos, pero raramente son considerados en la creación de corredores marinos.

Marine biologists Juan Maté and Luis D' Croz study the genetic connectivity among populations of reef building corals in marine and coastal protected areas of the Panamanian Pacific.

With resources from SENACYT and STRI, Maté (right in the back) and collaborators Tania Romero (back), Carlos Vega from the University of Panama (left), Irving Bethancourt (right) and Lisa Fidel and Marcos Guerra (not shown), surveyed coral reefs in Coiba, Marino Golfo de Chiriqui, and Cerro Hoya national parks as well as the Iguana Island Wildlife Refuge last month, looking for six coral species they will use for their study.

Maté and D' Croz will test hypotheses related to sexual reproduction strategies as mechanisms of genetic flow, physical barriers as impediments to dispersion, and catastrophic events like El Niño that may reduce genetic diversity.

The researchers plan to use their results to propose areas for the establishment of biological corridors connecting the different protected areas in the Panamanian Pacific. The creation of marine corridors allows the migration of emblematic species like whales and marine turtles. However, the greatest marine diversity in the tropics is found in coral reefs. These organisms are sessile and depend on currents to disperse their gametes, but are rarely considered in the establishment of marine corridors.

Information: Juan Maté
Editor: Marialuz Calderón
Photo: Marcos A. Guerra