

Tupper seminar

Tue, May 21, noon seminar speaker will be Ulrich Mueller, University of Texas at Austin
Ants *v.s.* fungus *v.s.* mutualism: Ant-cultivar conflict and the deconstruction of the attine ant-fungus symbiosis

Bambi seminar

Thu, May 23, Bambi seminar speaker will be Robert Dudley, University of Texas at Austin
Adventures in the wing trade: Biomechanical limits to animal flight performance

Arrivals

Javier Ortega and James Warren, Florida International University, May 16 - Jun 9, to teach field course in Bocas del Toro.

Ulrich Mueller and Nicole Gerardo, University of Texas at Austin, and Lacey Laudermilk and Shauna Price, University of Kansas, May 16 - Jun 5, to study the evolutionary-ecology of the attine ant-microbe mutualism, in Gamboa.

Rachel Spigler, University of Georgia, May 18 / Aug 2, to study the consequences of rarity on the reproductive success of tropical trees, on BCI.

Cameron Currie, University of Kansas, and Anna Himler, Jarrod Scott and Tanya Vo, University of Texas at Austin, May 19 - Jun 14, to join Ulrich Mueller and party, in Gamboa.

Carol Augspurger, University of Illinois, May 20 - Jun 17, to study the recruitment limitation by the palm community: a comparison between BCI and La Selva, on a Mellon Exploratory Award.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

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STRI's Office of Physical Plants presented a computerized "virtual" model of the Bocas del Toro Marine Station in Istmito, Isla Colón, to the Director's Office. Work on the main building started last month by International Builders and Dillon Construction. It was designed following a typical Caribbean architecture, with a concrete raised structure and a wooden sustainable-farm super structure approved by the Panamanian Environmental Authority (ANAM). This facility of 1000m² will house laboratories and offices run by solar panels, thanks to a donation of David Coffrin. A sea-water system will be provided next to the building. The maintenance building (not shown in the image) will be replaced and the dock will be totally repaired. Completion of the construction work is expected by the end of the year.

La Oficina de Diseño y Construcción de STRI presentó una maqueta "virtual" de la Estación Marina de Bocas del Toro en Istmito, Isla Colón, a la Oficina del Director. Los trabajos del edificio principal empezaron el mes pasado por International Builders y Dillon Construction. Se diseñó siguiendo la arquitectural típica caribeña, con una base elevada de concreto seguida por una superestructura de madera de granjas sostenibles aprobadas por la ANAM. Esta instalación de 1000m² albergará laboratorios y oficinas que funcionarán con energía generada por paneles solares, gracias a una donación de David Coffrin. Se instalará un sistema de agua de mar junto a los laboratorios. El edificio de mantenimiento (que no se muestra en la imagen) será reemplazado y el muelle se reparará totalmente. Se espera que estos trabajos de construcción se entreguen a finales de año.

Science



Robert Ricklefs, former STRI fellow from the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and STRI staff scientist Eldredge Bermingham responded to colleagues Joshua L. Cherry from Harvard University, Frederick R. Adler, from the University of Utah, and Kevin P. Johnson, from Illinois Natural History Survey, in the May 10 issue of *Science* (vol. 296: 975-976) in the article "Islands, equilibria and speciation." This debate is based on the article by Ricklefs and Bermingham "Nonequilibrium diversity dynamics of the Lesser Antillean avifauna" published last year by *Science* on November 16 (vol. 294: 1522-1524) where the authors discussed MacArthur and Wilson's model of island diversity and present their own conclusions.

More arrivals

Michael Booth, Yale University, May 20-29, to work with the CTFS in the Prorena project.

Christopher Marshall, SI, May 20 - Jun 6, to work with Ted Schultz, Cameron Currie and Ulrich Mueller, in Gamboa.

Scott Mangan, pre-doctoral fellow from Indiana University, May 20 - 31, to conduct the project "Do neotropical rodents influence forest regeneration by dispersing spores of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi? In Gamboa.

Joseph Holtum, James Cooke University, Australia, May 21 - Jun 3, to work with Klaus Winter, at Tupper.

Camila Pizano, intern from Universidad de Los Andes, May 21-Aug 2, to work with Allen Herre and Jim Dalling, on BCI.

Andrew Cohen, San Francisco Estuary Institute, May 22 - Jun 30, to conduct a survey for exotic marine species in both coasts of Panama to assemble a report on tropical marine invasions, at Naos and Galeta.

Matthew Medeiros, Oregon, May 22 - Jul 17, to work with Brendan Borrell, on BCI.

Scott Solomon, University of Texas at Austin, May 22 - Jun 20, to work on the biogeography of *Atta cephalotes* in Gamboa, BCI and other study sites, on a STRI/OTS award.

Franz Kainz, Austria, May 22, to work as volunteer for Alexander Land and Heiner Romer, on BCI.

Ted Schultz, University of Texas at Austin, May 23 - Jun 9, to study the evolutionary-ecology of the attine ant-microbe mutualism, in Gamboa.

New Smithsonian Web Site



On Friday, May 17, the Smithsonian launched a new redesigned web site at www.si.edu or www.smithsonian.org/ According to SI Secretary Lawrence Small, the "Smithsonian home and top-tier navigation pages have been transformed in a number of meaningful ways and are now capable of quickly linking users with a massive array of images and information about exhibitions, events, research news, visitor information, donor opportunities and membership options." The web-site includes guides in Spanish, French, English, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese.

El viernes 17 de mayo, el Smithsonian inauguró su nueva página de web re-diseñada en www.si.edu o www.smithsonian.org/ De acuerdo al Secretario Lawrence Small, "la página principal del Smithsonian y sus páginas de navegación fueron transformadas significativamente y ahora son capaces de enlazar a los usuarios rápidamente a una variedad inmensa de imágenes e información sobre exhibiciones, eventos, noticias sobre investigaciones, información para visitantes, oportunidades para donantes y opciones de membresía." Esta página incluye guías en español, francés, inglés, alemán ruso, chino y japonés.

Smithsonian employees survey 2002

Effective Monday, May 20, the new opinion survey for Smithsonian employees will be available from your facility's secretary. Participation in this survey is voluntary. Groups will be organized in different rooms for non-English speaking personnel. If you have any question please contact your facility's secretary or STRI's Office of Human Resources.

A partir del lunes 20 de mayo se repartirá la nueva encuesta de opiniones para empleados del Smithsonian en todas las instalaciones de STRI, a través de las secretarías de cada punto de trabajo. La participación en esta encuesta es voluntaria. Se organizarán grupos en diferentes salones para el personal que requiera traducción al español. Dirija sus preguntas a la secretaria de su instalación o a la Oficina de Recursos Humanos de STRI.

Encuesta para empleados 2002

Miscellaneous

For sale: one-year old Magic Chef refrigerator \$500. Whirlpool stove \$100. Samsung microwave \$30. Toast and oven \$10. Never used Weider exercise machine (steps, weights for body and legs, sit-ups) \$400. Interested please contact Xenia Saavedra.

House: Altos de Miraflores, 4broom, 3bath, 3-cars in a one-way street. For more info call Xenia de Saavedra, tel. 270-7334, 226-8938, 633-2338

Departures

Haris Lessios, May 20 - Jun 2, to Thessalonike, Greece, to present a talk at the 9th International Symposium of Mediterranean Biogeography.

New publications

Christy, John H., Backwell, Patricia R.Y., Goshima, Seiji, and Kreuter, Thomas, J. 2002. "Sexual selection for structure building by courting male fiddler crabs: an experimental study of behavioral mechanisms." *Behavioral Ecology* 13(3): 366-374.

He, Fanglian, and Legendre, Pierre. 2002. "Species diversity patterns derived from species-Area model." *Ecology* 83(5): 1185-1198.

Poulsen, Michael, Bot, Adrienne N.M., Nielsen, Mogens G., and Boomsma, Jacobus J. 2002. "Experimental evidence for the costs and hygienic significance of the antibiotic metapleural gland secretion in leaf-cutting ants." *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* Online.

Laurance, William F., Powell, George, and Hansen, Lara. 2002. "A precarious future for Amazonia. The meeting The Future of the Amazon: Impacts of Deforestation and Climate Change was held in Panamá from 29 to 31 January 2002." *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 17(6): 251-252.

Roy, M.S., and Sponer, Renate. 2002. "Evidence of a human-mediated invasion of the tropical western Atlantic by the 'world's most common brittlestar'." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London)* B 269(1495): 1017-1023.

Wilson, David T., and Meekan, Mark G. 2001. "Environmental influences on patterns of larval replenishment in coral reef fishes." *Marine Ecology* 222: 197-208.