

Tupper seminars

On Tuesday, October 8, we will have two seminars at the Tupper Center. At 12 noon, seminar speaker will be Arturo Sanchez Azofeifa, visiting scholar from the University of Alberta, Canada, and co-director of the Earth Observation Systems Laboratory (EOSL) **Can we account for ecosystem complexity?**

At 4pm, seminar speaker will be visiting scholar Robert Morley, from Royal Holloway, University of London, and Palynova, Jakarta, Indonesia **Tertiary history of Malaysian flora**

At 5pm there will be a happy hour at the Corotú Plaza.

Bambi seminar

Thursday, October 10, Bambi seminar speaker will be Robert J. Morley **Radiation and cross-continental dispersal of angiosperms based on the fossil pollen record**

Arrivals

Martina Wagner, Universität Würzburg, Germany, Oct 6 - Mar 30, 2003, to study small castes on trails of leaf-cutting ants, on BCI.

Claudia Rumold, Mellon intern from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Oct 7 - Jan 15, 2003, to do starch grain analyses, at CTPA, Ancon.

Mark Littler, Dianne Littler and Barrett Brooks, SI National Museum of Natural History Oct 8 - 22, to study bottom-up versus top-down controls of lagoonal coral reef habitat, on Bocas del Toro.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

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Evans and NAPA consultants visit STRI

Oceanographer David L. Evans, new SI undersecretary for science, and senior consultants of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) visited STRI this week. Evans visited the facilities, director Ira Rubinoff, deputy director Cristián Samper, and members of the scientific staff. In the first photo, archaeologist Dolores Piperno, director of STRI's Center for Tropical Paleocology and Archaeology (CTPA) in Ancon, shows a lake core to Evans, sediments she

recovered from a site in Mexico, and explains how phytoliths, pollen, and charcoal retrieved from the sediments are revealing a long history of agriculture and environmental change in that region. Also in the photo (background) is staff scientist Richard G. Cooke. In the next photo, Jake Barkdoll and Al Kliman from NAPA visit with staff scientist Annette Aiello to see STRI's insect dry collection, at the Tupper Center. NAPA and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) are conducting a study of the status of science at the Smithsonian.

El oceanógrafo David L. Evans, nuevo sub-secretario para ciencias del Smithsonian, y consultores de la Academia de Administración Pública de los Estados Unidos (NAPA, por sus siglas en inglés) visitaron STRI esta semana. Evans visitó las instalaciones, y se reunió con el director Ira Rubinoff, el subdirector Cristián Samper, y miembros del personal científico. En la primera foto, la arqueóloga Dolores Piperno, directora del Centro de Paleocología y Arqueología Tropical de STRI en Ancón, le muestra a Evans sedimentos de lago recuperados de un lugar de estudio en México, y le explica cómo los fitolitos, polen y el carbono recuperados de los sedimentos revelan una larga historia de la agricultura y los cambios ocurridos en la región. En la foto también aparece el científico de STRI Richard G. Cooke. En la foto siguiente, Jake Barldoll y Al Kliman de NAPA, visitan a la científica de STRI, Annette Aiello, para conocer la colección seca de insectos, en el Centro Tupper. Los funcionarios de NAPA y la Academia de Ciencias de los Estados Unidos (NAS) están llevando a cabo un estudio sobre el estatus de la ciencia, en el Smithsonian.

Evans y consultores de NAPA visitan STRI

New publications

Bruna, Emilio M., and Kress, John. 2002. "Habitat fragmentation and the demographic structure of an Amazonian understory herb (*Heliconia acuminata*)." *The Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology* 16(5): 1256-1266.

Bruna, Emilio M. 2002. "A biologist's guide to fragmenting the Amazon (including why that's a bad idea)." *The Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology* 16(5): 1446-1448.

Edwards, Will, and Gadek, Paul. 2002. "Multiple resprouting from diaspores and single cotyledons in the Australian tropical tree species *Idiospermum australiense*." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 18: 943-948.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2002. "Thomas Selfridge: de Bahía de Caledonia al Río Sucubtí, 1870." *"Epocas" Segunda Era (La Prensa supplement)* 17(9): 10-11.

Perdices, Anabel, Bermingham, Eldredge, Montilla, Antonia, and Doadrio, Ignacio. 2002. "Evolutionary history of the genus *Rhamdia* (Teleostei: Pimelodidae) in Central America." *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 25(1): 172-189.

Ricklefs, Robert E., and Bermingham, Eldredge. 2002. "The concept of the taxon cycle in biogeography." *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 11(5): 353-361.

Roberts, Tyson R. 2001. "Killing the Mekong: China's fluvicidal hydropower-cum-navigation development scheme." *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society* 49: 143-149.



Officials from the American Embassy visit STRI

Late last month, *chargé de affaires* a.i. of the United States Embassy in Panama, Christopher McMullen (right), Mrs. McMullen and chief of mission a.i. Don Terpstra (second from the left) visited Barro Colorado Island with STRI deputy director Cristián Samper. In the photo, taken by Samper, a BCI gamewarden takes the group to a tour around the island.

A finales del mes pasado, el encargado de negocios a.i. de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos en Panamá, Christopher McMullen (a la derecha), la Sra. McMullen y Don Terpstra (segundo de izquierda a derecha), jefe de misión encargado de la Embajada, visitaron la Isla de Barro Colorado con el subdirector Cristián Samper. En la foto, tomada por Samper, un guardabosques de Barro Colorado, conduce al grupo en un recorrido alrededor de la isla.

Funcionarios de la Embajada Americana visitan STRI

Volunteer available

Jacoba Wassenberg, with a master's degree in biology with an specialization in ethology and entomology from Wageningen University, The Netherlands, is offering to work as volunteer at STRI in a behavioral ecology project, as long as it involves some biological fieldwork, preferably with animals. She needs room and board. Available from October 7-28. She is Dutch, and also speaks English and Spanish. Interested please contact Adriana Bilgray, at STRI's Office of Education.

Congreso Científico Nacional



La Vicerrectoría de Investigación y Postgrado de la Universidad de Panamá (UP-VIP) celebrará su 21 Congreso Científico Nacional del lunes 7 al viernes 11 de octubre. El tema de este año es "Hacia el Centenario de la República: Investigación, Desarrollo Humano e Identidad Nacional. Para mayor información comuníquese con upvipdi@ancon.up.ac.pa

More publications

Ventocilla, Jorge. 2002. "El sangre de toro". *La Prensa* (September 29): 8B. Panamá.

Wright, S. Joseph. 2002. "La influencia del fenómeno climático el niño sobre la fenología del bosque neotropical." In Guariguata, Manuel R., and Kattan, Gustavo (Eds.), *Ecología y conservación de bosques tropicales*: 418-419. Cartago, Costa Rica: Libro Universitario Regional.

Wright, S. Joseph. 2002. "Fort Sherman and Parque Metropolitano canopy cranes, Panama." In Mitchell, A.W., Secoy, K., and Jackson, T. (Eds.), *The global canopy handbook*: 72-76. Oxford: Flobal Canopy Foundation.

Wright, S. Joseph. 2002. "Density dependence among tropical trees: Case studies from Barro Colorado Island, Panama." In Ganeshiah, K.N., Uma Shaanker, R., and Bawa, K.S. (Eds.), *Tropical ecosystems: Structure, diversity and human welfare*: 239-242. New Delhi: Oxford and IBH Publishing Company.

Yavitt, Joseph B., and Wright, S. Joseph. 2002. "Charge characteristics of soil in a lowland tropical moist forest in panama in response to dry-season irrigation." *Australian Journal of Soil Research* 40: 269-281.

Miscellaneous

For sale: 1992, 2.4 liter, Toyota Cressida sedan, automatic transmission. Less than 77,000 km, new tires, new air-conditioning system, well maintained. Asking \$4,500. Contact Harry Barnes