

## Tupper seminar

Tue, Aug 31, noon seminar speaker will be Robert Ewers, University of Canterbury, UK  
**Deforestation, forest fragmentation and beetle communities in New Zealand**

## Holiday

Wed, Sep 1<sup>st</sup> will be the inauguration of Panama's new government and president Martín Torrijos Espino. This is an official holiday for all sectors in Panama.

## Bambi seminar

Thu, Aug 2, Bambi seminar speaker will be David Logue, Colorado State University  
**Title to be announced**

## Arrivals

Sylvain Delagrange, University of Quebec, Aug 27 - Oct 15, to work with Catherine Potvin, at Naos and Sardinilla.

Maria Adreani, Nicole Fogarty and Casey Terhorst, Florida State University, Aug 29 - Oct 8, to study the ecology of speciation in a Neotropical coral, at Bocas.

Kirk Zigler, STRI postdoctoral fellow from Duke University, Aug 31 - Nov 30, to study the transition between indirect and direct development early development of *Clypeaster rosaceus*, at Naos and Bocas.

Melissa Garren, Scripps, Aug 30 - Oct 9, to work, as volunteer with Rachel Collin in introgression and a genic view of coral species, at Bocas.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

[www.stri.org](http://www.stri.org)

August 27, 2004

## STRI and IDIAP sign agreement

Early this month, director Ira Rubinoff and David Berroa Pinzon, director of Panama's Agriculture Research Institute (IDIAP) signed a two-year memorandum of understanding to join efforts in the study of the biological diversity of the white crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus* in Panama. This species is protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments aiming to ensure that international trade in



Juvenile *Crocodylus acutus* / Lagartos blancos juveniles.

specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Miriam Vanegas de Anaya, IDIAP, and Oris Sanjur, STRI, will coordinate the project. STRI will provide the project with technical support and use of its research facilities at the Biotechnology Molecular Laboratories located at the Naos Island Laboratories.

A principios de este mes, el director Ira Rubinoff y David Berroa Pinzón, director del Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá, firmaron un memorándum de entendimiento de dos años para unir esfuerzos en el estudio de la diversidad biológica del lagarto blanco, *Crocodylus acutus* en Panamá. Esta especie está protegida por el Convenio sobre Comercio Internacional de Especies de Flora y Fauna Silvestre en Peligro de Extinción (CITES, por sus siglas en inglés), un convenio internacional entre gobiernos que desean asegurar que el comercio internacional de especímenes de animales y plantas silvestres no los ponga en peligro de extinción. Miriam Vanegas de Anaya, IDIAP, y Oris Sanjur, STRI, coordinarán el proyecto. STRI aportará apoyo técnico y el uso de sus instalaciones de investigación en el Laboratorio de Biotecnología Molecular, localizado en los Laboratorios de Isla Naos.

## New frog species named after Stanley Rand

In their article "Two new species of *Physalaemus* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) from western Ecuador" [Herpetologica, 60(2), 261–275, August], Santiago R. Ron and David C. Cannatella from The University of Texas at Austin, and Luis A. Coloma, from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, named a new frog species *Physalaemus randi* after STRI herpetologist A. Stanley Rand, "who has contributed to *Physalaemus* collections in western Ecuador, and most importantly, was a pioneer in behavioral studies of *Physalaemus*. His extensive research, in collaboration with [STRI research associate] Michael Ryan has greatly enriched the understanding of animal communication systems."



## More arrivals

Meshage Hunte, Drexel University, Pennsylvania, Sep 2-16, to study the response of tropical stream ecosystem structure and function to amphibian extinctions, at Fortuna and El Cope.

## Departures

Klaus Winter, Aug 29 - Sep 4, to Montreal, to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Photosynthesis, as invited speaker.

Haris Lessios, Aug 30 - Sep 19, to the Azores, to attend a workshop on "Use of Molecular Markers for the Study of Marine Biodiversity." He will also visit Thessaloniki, Greece to collect land snails and sea urchins.

Hector Guzman, Sep 3-6, to Campeche, Mexico, to visit coral reef sites in the area, and use local libraries for reference work.

## Condolences

To Adriana Bilgray and her family, for the loss of her grandmother Milka Chuljak Leko on Sunday, August 22, in Boquete, Chiriquí

## New publications

Gerardo, Nicole M., Mueller, Ulrich G., Price, Shauna L., and Currie, Cameron R. 2004. "Exploiting a mutualism: parasite specialization on cultivars within the fungus-growing ant symbiosis." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London) B* 271: 1791-1798.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2004. "El naturalista Ernesto Restrepo Tirado en Darién, 1887." "Epocas" Segunda Era (Supplement to *La Prensa*) 19(5): 10-11.

En su artículo "Dos especies de *Physalaemus* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) del oeste de Ecuador" [Herpetologica 60(2): 261-275, agosto], Santiago R. Ron y David C. Cannatela de la Universidad de Texas en Austin y Luis A. Coloma de Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, bautizaron una nueva especie de rana, *Physalaemus randi* en honor del herpetólogo de STRI, A. Stanley Rand, "quien ha contribuido a las colecciones de *Physalaemus* del oeste de Ecuador y más importante, fue pionero en estudios de comportamiento de *Physalaemus*. Sus extensas investigaciones, en colaboración con Michael J. Ryan [investigador asociado a STRI] han enriquecido grandemente el conocimiento de los sistemas de comunicación animal."



## Darwin Initiative fifth expedition: British ambassador visits R.V. Urracá

British ambassador to Panama Jim Malcolm (photo at left with researcher Susan Chambers from the Royal Museum of Scotland) visited the R.V. *Urraca* on August 13 during the fifth Darwin Initiative expedition to Las Perlas Archipelago, a three-year project sponsored by UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Heriot-Watt University (HWU) in Scotland and STRI, with support from the British Embassy in Panama. The researchers gather scientific information to map marine benthic communities using remote sensing and *in situ* surveys (diving, dredging, trawling). They also study changes in land cover and socio-economic aspects associated to the use of local resources in Las Perlas. The program aims to provide baseline scientific data to propose protective status in some areas of the Archipelago. The photo at right shows project leaders James Mair, HWU and Hector Guzmán, STRI.

Jim Malcolm, embajador británico en Panamá (foto a la izquierda con la científica Susan Chambers del Museo Real de Escocia) visitó el R.V. *Urracá* el 13 de agosto, durante la quinta expedición de la Iniciativa Darwin en Las Perlas, un proyecto de tres años patrocinado por el Departamento de Alimentación Ambiental y Asuntos Rurales del Reino Unido (DEFRA), la Universidad Heriot-Watt (HWU) en Escocia y STRI, con apoyo de la Embajada Británica en Panamá. Los investigadores recogen información científica para localizar comunidades benthicas marinas usando sensores remotos y exploraciones *in situ* (buceando, excavando, usando redes de arrastre), así como cambios en la cobertura terrestre, y estudios socio-económicos asociados al uso de recursos locales en el Archipiélago. El objetivo del proyecto es obtener información científica básica para proponer estatus de protección en ciertas regiones del área. La foto a la derecha muestra a los investigadores principales, James Mair, HWU y Héctor Guzmán, STRI.

## Panamanian musical band invited to SI

SI has invited the Panamanian/Kuna musical band "Bannaba Project" to the inauguration of its Museum of the American Indian, on Sep 21. They will join indigenous groups from North, Central and South America during a six-day festival celebration. Bannaba Project plays aboriginal mystic music, 'congo', 'buyurengue' and jazz directed by Panamanian/Kuna

