

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, April 15, noon seminar speaker will be Helene Muller-Landau, University of California at Santa Barbara

Understanding tree size distributions in tropical forests

Bambi seminar

Thursday, April 17, Bambi seminar speaker will be Rhett Harrison, STRI

Colonisation of an island volcano, Long Island, Papua New Guinea

Arrivals

Kyle Harms, Jane Carlson and C. Thimothy Paine, Louisiana State University, Apr 12-18, to study the functional significance of water calyces at Parque Internacional La Amistad, in the Chiriquí province.

Alexandre Oliveira, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Apr 14-26, to collaborate with William F. Laurance, at Tupper.

Maria Demir, University of Applied Science, Germany, Apr 15 - Sep 20, to work as volunteer in the bat project, on BCI.

Alexander Mikheyev, STRI/OTS fellow from the University of Texas at Austin, Apr 15-29, to study the territoriality in *Atta colombica*, on BCI.

Janeene Touchton, University of British Columbia, Canada, Apr 16 - Aug 29, to study the effects of competitive release on social dynamics of ant-following antbirds, on BCI.

STRI news 2003



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

April 11, 2003

Caribbean coral found active against malaria by ICBG team

In collaboration with colleagues from the University of Puerto Rico and Florida State University in Panama, STRI research associate Todd Capson, coordinator of STRI's International Collaborative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG), published an article in the *Journal of Natural Products* entitled "Briarellins J-P and polyanthellin A: new eunicillin-based diterpenes from the Gorgonian coral *Briareum polyanthes* and their antimalarial activity" (Ospina *et al.*, vol. 66: 357-363). This publication is part of the Panama ICBG research program designed to find treatments for cancer, HIV, malaria, leishmaniasis and American trypanosomiasis in marine and terrestrial ecosystems, with support from the NSF, NIH and USDA. ICBG researchers test plants and marine organisms, namely sponges, soft corals, and blue green algae for chemical compounds, that may prove to be useful treatments against these diseases. In this case, Abimael D. Rodríguez and his colleagues from the University of Puerto Rico isolated the active components from the Caribbean Gorgonian coral, *Briareum polyanthes*.

Using a novel biological assay that detects antimalarial activity and which was developed in the laboratory of ICBG participant, Eduardo Ortega in Panama, they showed that there were elements in the coral that have potent activity against one of the parasites that causes malaria. (.pdf file available at calderom@tivoli.si.edu).

En colaboración con colegas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico y Florida State University en Panamá, el investigador asociado de STRI, Todd Capson, coordinador de los Grupos Internacionales de Colaboración para la Biodiversidad (ICBG) publicó un artículo en *Journal of Natural Products* que se titula "Briarellins J-P and polyanthellin A: new eunicillin-based diterpenes from the Gorgonian coral *Briareum polyanthes* and their antimalarial activity" (Ospina *et al.*, vol. 66: 357-363). Esta publicación es parte del proyecto de investigación del ICBG en Panamá, diseñado para encontrar tratamientos contra el cáncer, la malaria, leishmaniasis, y la tripanosomiasis americana, en ecosistemas terrestres y marinos, con apoyo de NSF, NIH y USDA. Los investigadores prueban plantas y organismos marinos, en particular esponjas, corales suaves y algas color agua, buscando compuestos químicos que pueden resultar útiles tratamientos contra estas enfermedades. En este caso, Abimael D. Rodríguez y sus colegas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, aislaron los componentes activos del coral caribeño *Briareum polyanthes*. Usando una prueba biológica novedosa que detecta actividad en contra de la malaria desarrollado por otro miembro del ICBG en Panamá, Eduardo Ortega, ellos mostraron que hay elementos en el coral que tienen una actividad potente contra uno de los parásitos que causan la malaria (copia del artículo en .pdf disponible en calderom@tivoli.si.edu).



Todd Capson, 2003

More arrivals

Tida Beng, New York, Apr 16-23, to work with Rachel Page, on BCI.

Departures

Allen Herre, Apr 13-20, to Rutgers, NY, to attend the meetings of the American Coeva Research Institute and to New York City, to consult with colleagues.

Condolences

To Daniel Pérez and his family, for the death of his mother Porfiria Goveas, on Monday, April 7.

A Daniel Pérez y su familia, por la muerte de su madre, Porfiria Goveas, el lunes 7 de abril.

New publication

Gehrig, Hans H., Aranda, Jorge E., Cushman, M.A., Virgo, Aurelio, Cushman, J.C., Hammel, Barry E., and Winter, Klaus. 2003. "Cladogram of Panamanian Clusia based on nuclear DNA: Implications for the origins of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism." *Plant Biology* 5: 69-70.

Miscellaneous

For sale: Apex inflatable boat (two-week use) \$1500 (paid \$2050) and Yamaha motor (two-week use) \$1000 (paid \$1485). Boat can be seen at www.apexinflatables.com/English/A9L.htm Call Julie Linton at cel. 625-5407 or e-mail her at: julie.linton@alumni.duke.edu

From Accounting//De Contabilidad

Maria Lorena Cabrera from the Accounting Department was appointed payroll assistant, replacing Hely Cortez. A new accounts payable assistant will be hired in her place.

Maria Lorena Cabrera, del Departamento de Contabilidad fue asignada como encargada de planillas, en reemplazo de Hely Cortez. Se contratará un asistente para su posición

Job opportunities//Posiciones abiertas

Marine scientific manager for Naos Marine Laboratories (bilingual). The selected candidate will oversee day-to-day operations of scientific support, manage scientific installations and common equipment, general use laboratories and supplies, and oversee the proper functioning of the physical installations, vehicles and boats. Applications will be received until April 18. Please see the requirements at www.stri.org

Administrador marino para ciencias en los Laboratorios de Naos (bilingüe). El candidato seleccionado supervisará operaciones diarias de apoyo científico, administrará instalaciones científicas y equipo común, laboratorios de uso general y suministros, y supervisará el funcionamiento apropiado de instalaciones físicas, vehículos y botes. El concurso se cierra el 18 de abril. Vea los requisitos en www.stri.org.

Accounts payable assistant (bilingual). The accounts payable assistant will be posted at Tivoli, and will conduct everything related to the process of paying bills, conciliate bank statements, and attend suppliers. The candidates must have approved at least three years in Accounting or Business Administration, have one to three years experience paying bills, capacity to work under stress, ability to communicate with suppliers, use computers, electronic spreadsheets, etc. Applications will be accepted until April 25.

Asistente para cuentas por pagar (bilingüe). El asistente de cuentas por pagar trabajará en Tívoli y llevará a cabo todo el proceso de pagar cuentas, conciliar estados de cuenta bancarios, y atender suplidores. Los candidatos deben haber aprobado por lo menos tres años de contabilidad o administración de empresas, tener de uno a tres años de experiencia pagando facturas, tener capacidad de trabajar bajo presión, habilidad para comunicarse con los suplidores, usar computadoras, hojas electrónicas, etc. Las aplicaciones se recibirán hasta el 25 de abril.

Webmaster: STRI seeks a talented in-house webmaster to take charge of our website. The position offers an extremely attractive opportunity for the candidate to construct (internal and external) and develop exceptionally designed, cutting-edge web sites to build and connect the international field of science with the design of the Institute's web sites. Interested please see the candidates' requirements at www.stri.org. Applications will be received until April 25.

Webmaster. STRI busca un webmaster talentoso para trabajar dentro de STRI que se encargue de nuestro sitio de internet. La posición ofrece una oportunidad extremadamente atractiva para el candidato, para que construya y desarrolle portales al día excepcionalmente diseñados (internos y externos) para construir y conectar el campo internacional de la ciencia con el diseño de los sitios de internet del Instituto. Para los interesados, favor ver los requisitos en www.stri.org. Las aplicaciones se recibirán hasta el 28 de abril.

Training opportunities//Entrenamiento

The Santa Fe Institute announces the opening of a competition for several international fellowships to foster future development of academic and interdisciplinary research activities in targeted countries throughout the world. Two-year term fellowships will be awarded from Oct 1, 2003 to Sep 30, 2005. Fellowships will be awarded to outstanding graduate students, postdoctoral students, and junior or senior level researchers currently affiliated, on a full-time basis, with an academic institution within India, China, Russia or other former Soviet Union countries, Africa, Eastern Europe, or Latin America. Applicants should have experience in, and/or a high level of interest in, the study of complex adaptive systems in an interdisciplinary environment. It is expected that award recipients will continue their research and/or academic activities within their home country during the fellowship term, and after the fellowship expires. More information at <http://www.santafe.edu/sfi/education/indexInternational.html> or contact Mary Jane West-Eberhard, Nélida Gómez or Adriana Bilgray.

