

Tupper 4pm seminar

Tuesday, July 25, 4pm seminar speaker will be Peter Wilf
Pennsylvania State University
Decoupled plant and insect diversity after the End-Cretaceous extinction

Paleo-talk

Wednesday, July 26, Paleo-talk speaker will be Andres Pardo
Universidad de Caldas,
Colombia

Western Colombia Mesozoic sedimentary deposits: clues for unraveling the evolution of the Caribbean Plate

Two Bambis

Wednesday, July 26, Bambi speaker will be Dieter Wittman, Institut für Nutzpflanzenwissenschaften und Ressourcenschutz
The Kamasutra of bees

Thursday, July 27, Bambi seminar speaker will be Peter Wilf, Pennsylvania State University

Ancient South American biodiversity: discoveries from Early Cenozoic Patagonia

About Jul 11 seminar

In this week's 4pm seminar, William Magnusson presented an outstanding seminar on a biodiversity monitoring program in Brazil—which may end up being one of the largest in the world. The audience showed great interest in this work. Magnusson provided Susan Laurance with a DVD of .pdfs of the papers that has been produced from this program. The DVD is available at her office 426, Tupper Center.



Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

July 21, 2006

Scienceexpress “Direct link established between tropical trees and insect diversity”

Higher tree species diversity leads directly to higher diversity of leaf-eating insects, researchers report in the July 13, 2006 early-online version of the journal *Science*.

Understanding the drivers of the high diversity in tropical forests has been a major question since Darwin and Wallace visited tropical forests and even before, Smithsonian co-author Scott Miller writes, We found that higher tropical tree diversity explains why there are more leaf-eating insects in tropical than in temperate forests.

It may be obvious that forests with greater numbers of tree species should support a wider variety of leaf-eating insects than do less diverse forests, but no one had ever done the experiment to rule out the major alternative explanation: that insect species in the tropics eat the leaves of a smaller



number of host trees (are more host specific), which would also result in more insect species in a given area. This study presents the best experimental evidence to date to account for the latitudinal gradient in herbivorous insect biodiversity.

The effort involved a comparison of insects' eating habits in temperate sites in Central Europe and lowland tropical sites near Mandang, Papua New Guinea. The team of ecologists, taxonomists and field assistants led by Vojtech Novotny, from the University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, includes co-authors from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, National Zoological Park and STRI and the University of Minnesota in the US and Comenius University in Slovakia.

Investigadores informan que la diversidad en especies de árboles altos conlleva directamente a una mayor diversidad de insectos que se alimentan de hojas, en la versión preliminar del 13 de julio de la revista *Science*, en *Scienceexpress*.

Comprender los factores que conducen a una alta diversidad en los bosques tropicales ha sido una pregunta importante desde que Darwin y Wallace visitaron los bosques tropicales y aún antes, escribe el co-autor del artículo Scott Miller del Smithsonian, “Encontramos que la mayor diversidad de árboles tropicales explica por qué hay más insectos que se alimentan de hojas en los trópicos que en los bosques templados.

Arriving next week

Martin Wikelski, Princeton University, to continue working in STRI's Automated Telemetry Project, on BCI.

Paulyn Cartwright and Kora Anderson, University of Kansas, and Catherine McFadden, Harvey Mudd College, to assemble the tree of life—an integrative approach to investigating cnidarian phylogeny, on Bocas.

Alejandro Royo, US Forest Service, to conduct the project "Do herbivores and seedling predators maintain tropical diversity; testing the Janzen-Connell at the community level at La Selva and BCI."

Elisabeth Kalko, STRI, to continue comparative community studies of bats, on BCI.

Emily Thompson, intern State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUNY), to work with Mark Torchin on Central American parasite biogeography project, at Naos.

David Wood, Sidwell Friends Middle School, to learn how to establish a research station at Sidwell Friends School through STRI's example.

New publications

Coley, Phyllis D., Bateman, M.L., and Kursar, Thomas A. 2006. "The effects of plant quality on caterpillar growth and defense against natural enemies." *Oikos* Online

Gunatilleke, C.V.S., Gunatilleke, I.A.U.N., Esufali, S., Harms, Kyle E., Ashton, Peter M.S., Burslem, D.F.R.P., and Ashton, Peter S. 2006. "Species habitat associations in a Sri Lankan dipterocarp forest." *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 22: 371-384.

Puede ser obvio que los bosques con mayor número de especies de árboles mantengan una variedad más amplia de insectos que se alimentan de hojas a diferencia de aquellos bosques menos diversos. Pero nadie ha llevado a cabo un experimento para desestimar otra posible explicación: que las especies de insectos en los trópicos se alimenten de hojas de un número menor de árboles hospederos (son más específicos), los cuales podrían resultar en mayor cantidad de

especies de insectos en una área determinada. Este estudio presenta la mejor evidencia experimental hasta la fecha que responda por la gradiente latitudinal de la biodiversidad de insectos herbívoros.

El esfuerzo incluye una comparación en los hábitos alimenticios de los insectos en áreas templadas en Europa Central, y lugares de tierras bajas del trópico cerca de Mandang en Papua Nueva Guinea. El equipo de ecólogos,

taxónomos y asistentes de investigación dirigidos por Vojtech Novotny de la Universidad de Behemia del Sur en Checoeslovaquia, incluye coautores del Museo de Historia Natural de los Estados Unidos del Smithsonian, el Parque Nacional Zoológico y STRI, y la Universidad de Minnesota en EU, y Comenius University en Slovakia.

Información tomada de *EurekAlert!*

Argelis Ruiz wins ANAM's conservation award

Biologist Argelis Ruiz, Center for Tropical Paleoecology and Archaeology (CTPA) and Gamboa administrator, who has also served at STRI as education specialist, long-time student of the behavior of marine turtles, was recognized by Panama's Environmental Authority for Excellence in Environmental Education. Argelis has published with A. Stanley Rand, Ann and Peter Meylan, Richard Cooke and by herself in areas regarding marine turtles salvaging and recovery, as well as conservation of protected areas and iguana research. For her work protecting marine turtles, there is a turtle named "Argelis" swimming in the oceans and monitored by specialists.

The award winning ceremony "Premiaciones Ambientales 2006" will be held today, July 21, at the Panama Hotel.

La bióloga Argelis Ruiz, administradora del Centro de Paleoecología y Arqueología Tropical (CTPA) y Gamboa, quien ha fungido en STRI como especialista en educación, y estudiante de muchos años sobre la conducta de las tortugas marinas, ha sido reconocida por la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente por Excelencia Pedagógica Ambiental. Argelis ha publicado artículos con A. Stanley Rand, Peter y Ann Meylan, Richard Cooke y por su cuenta en áreas relacionadas con las tortugas marinas, cómo salvarlas y recuperarlas, así como la conservación de áreas protegidas y estudios sobre



iguanas. Por su trabajo en pro de la protección de las tortugas marinas, una tortuga bautizada "Argelis" nada en los océanos monitoreada por especialistas.

La ceremonia de premiación "Premiaciones Ambientales 2006" se llevará a cabo hoy, 21 de julio, en el Hotel Panamá.



More publications

Kenfack, David, Thomas, Duncan W., Chuyong, George B., and Condit, Richard. 2006. "Rarity and abundance in a diverse African forest." *Biodiversity and Conservation Online*.

Novotny, Vojtech, Drozd, Pavel, Miller, Scott E., Kulfan, Miroslav, Janda, Milan, Basset, Yves, and Weiblen, George D. 2006. "Why are there so many species of herbivorous insects in tropical rainforests?" *Scienceexpress* (July 13).

STRI in the news

"Bats follow leader's cue at mealtime" by Shankar Vedantam, Washington Post. 2006. *The Journal Gazette*, June 26.

"Insect herbivory" 2006. *Life Science*, July 20th.

"Tree and insect diversity linked." 2006. *Science, Engineering and Technology News Scenta* July 19.

"Insect diversity in rainforests results from plant biodiversity." 2006. Mongabay.com, July 18.

Miscellaneous

For rent: Gamboa 2 bedroom half duplex, fully furnished, available now. Contact Sunshine Van Bael at: vanbaels@si.edu or 276-6493

For Rent: Gamboa two bedroom duplex, newly restored. Partially furnished. \$550 per month, includes garbage pickup and water. Does not include electricity. Call Rene Vargas 6673-7173

BCI new administrator

Nixia Cohen Garrido was recently selected for the position of facility administrator for Barro Colorado Island.

She is a chemical engineer from Escola Politecnica da Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brasil, where she also conducted graduate studies in general administration and industrial relations. Cohen also has studies in inventory management from College Vanier, Montreal.

Before coming to STRI she worked at Les Reservoirs Gil Lab, Quebec, where she obtained experience in personnel supervision and budget management. She also worked at the National Film Board of Canada, Panama General Consulate in Sao Paulo and in the tourism industry in Brasil.

We are happy to have her at STRI and wish her all success.

Nixia Cohen Garrido fue seleccionada recientemente para la posición de administradora de la Isla de Barro Colorado.

Nixia es ingeniera química graduada de la Escuela



Politécnica de la Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brasil, donde también llevó a cabo estudios de postgrado en administración general y relaciones industriales. También tiene estudios en administración de inventarios de la Universidad Vanier en Montreal.

Antes de unirse a STRI trabajó en Les Reservoirs Gil Labs, Quebec, donde obtuvo experiencia en supervisión de personal y administración de presupuesto. También trabajó en el Instituto Canadiense de Cine, en el Consulado General de Panamá en Sao Paulo, y en la industrial de turismo en Brasil.

Nos alegramos de tenerla en STRI y le deseamos muchos éxitos.

The STRI Bookstore has produced a new line of products to promote Bocas del Toro Research Station inspired in the great diversity of species inhabiting its mangrove roots.

If you buy these products you support the Bocas Station through a percentage that will be invested directly at Bocas.

You find these products at STRI's Bookstore at Ancon, and at the Station in Bocas.



La Librería de STRI ha producido una nueva línea de productos para promover la Estación de Investigaciones de Bocas del Toro, inspirada en la gran diversidad de especies que habitan las raíces de sus manglares.

Al comprar estos artículos usted está apoyando la Estación de Bocas a través de un porcentaje que se invertirá directamente en la Estación de Bocas.

Encontrará estos productos en la Librería de STRI en Ancón y en la Estación de Bocas.

Reward • Recompensa

A laptop Dell computer of the Smithsonian is missing from the Naos Laboratories. Anybody who returns the information contained in this laptop will be rewarded and no questions asked! Do not have to return the computer, just the information in it. Call at 212-8733

Una computadora Dell laptop del Smithsonian ha desaparecido en los Laboratorios de Naos. Cualquier que regrese la información contenida en esta laptop será recompensado, y ¡no se harán preguntas! No es necesario que entregue la computadora, sólo la información que contiene. Llame al 212-8733.

Opera at Dawn

Story: Katie Milton
Edited by M Alvarado and ML Calderon
Photos: MA Guerra & Oris Acevedo

The early morning hours of June 23rd were of frenetic activity on BCI as Katie Milton and 37 participants in the 7th island-wide howler monkey troop count scrambled to be at their listening stations in by 5:15am

Also on time and forcefully at 5:17 am began the famous dawn chorus of the BCI howler monkeys. By around 5:30am most of the "big" howling was over but some troops continued to howl on and off until the conclusion of the census at 6:30.

The dawn chorus is a daily event in which each troop gives a series of loud howling calls to alert all other troops as to its specific location and then space itself out and forage over the day with the minimum likelihood of encountering other troops.

Howler monkeys do not have exclusive territories but rather live in home ranges that can overlap by as much as 100%.

Results indicated that in terms of the number of howler troops on BCI, things have been very consistent since the last census in 1998 and indeed since the first census of 1978.

There are around 65 troops of howler monkeys on BCI. The average number of monkeys per troop is 17.46.5 monkeys, giving an estimated total population size for howlers on BCI of 1131 monkeys.

Las primeras horas del 23 de junio fueron de gran actividad en BCI mientras que Katie Milton y 37 participantes del séptimo conteo de las manadas de monos aulladores se disponían a llegar a sus estaciones asignadas para oír a los monos a las 5:15am.

A tiempo y con fuerza a las 5:17am empezó el famoso coro del amanecer de los monos aulladores de BCI. Para las 5:30am la mayor parte de los fuertes aullidos había terminado, pero algunas manadas continuaron aullando de forma intermitente.

Los resultados indicaron que, en términos de las manadas de aulladores en BCI las cosas han sido muy consistentes desde el último censo en 1998 e incluso desde el primer censo en 1978.

Hay cerca de 65 manadas de monos aulladores en BCI. El número promedio de monos por manada es de 17.46.5 monos, resultando un tamaño total de población de aulladores en BCI de 1131 monos.

El coro del amanecer es un evento diario en donde cada manada envía una serie de aullidos de gran volumen para alertar a otras manadas sobre su localización específica para separarse y forrajar durante el día con un mínimo de encuentros entre manadas.

