

Tupper seminar

Tuesday, November 12, noon seminar speaker will be Seirian Sumner, STRI postdoctoral fellow in molecular evolution
The evolution of social parasitism in *Acromyrmex* leaf-cutting ants

Bambi seminar

Thu, Nov 14, Bambi seminar speaker will be Stefan Laube, University of Bonn
The epiphyte community of a strange tree

Arrivals

Mark Brady, new office assistant at the STRI DC Office, Nov 11-17, on official business at the Director's Office, become familiarized with STRI procedures and visit the facilities.

Mary Bricker, Michigan State University, Nov 12 - 29, to study the climatic adaptation in *Lobelia cardinalis*, in Panama.

Lisa Barnett, STRI DC Office, Nov 14-20, on official business.

Departures

Georgina de Alba, Nov 12-15, to Washington DC, on official business at SI regarding contracting course.

Joe Wright, Nov 12-15, to Atlanta, GA, to present a seminar, at the invitation of the University of Georgia.

Upcoming holidays

Sun, Nov 10 is the commemoration of Los Santos cry for independence. Mon, Nov 11, is observed. Thu, Nov 28 is Independence day from Spain. Mon, Dec 2 is observed.

STRI news 2002



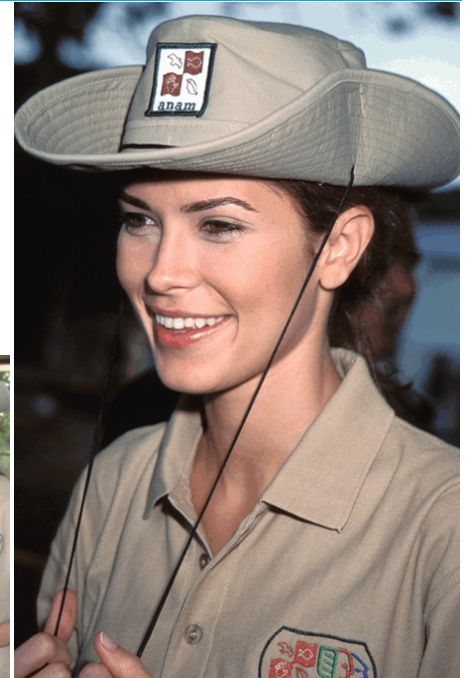
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá

www.stri.org

November 8, 2002

Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek to BCI

Panamanian Miss Universe 2002 Justine Pasek and party visited BCI on Thu, Nov 7 with STRI and ANAM officials, and members of the local and international media. Pasek, 22, is the daughter of a Panama Canal Authority engineer and granddaughter of a Panama Canal Commission pilot. Before putting on the crown on September 23, Pasek worked for TV specials, charity events, theater musicals and fashion shows as Miss Panama, and studied Environmental Engineering, that she plans to complete in the future to educate the public about environmental conservation. During her visit, Pasek praised STRI's work and encouraged the public to support its activities and conserve Panamá's natural richness. In the photos, Miss Universe is accompanied by Ira Rubinoff, Public Information director Mónica Alvarado, Cristián Samper and ANAM administrator Ricardo Anguizola (first from the left in the photo on the stairs).



La panameña Justine Pasek, Miss Universo 2002 y su equipo, visitaron BCI el 7 de noviembre con oficiales de STRI, ANAM, y miembros de los medios locales e internacionales. Pasek, 22, es hija de un ingeniero de la Autoridad del Canal y nieta de un piloto de la antigua Comisión del Canal. Antes de ser coronada el 23 de septiembre, Pasek trabajaba en especiales de TV, eventos de caridad, teatros musicales y exhibiciones de modas, como Miss Panamá, y estudiaba Ingeniería Ambiental, que planea completar para educar sobre la conservación. Durante su visita, Pasek elogió la labor de STRI y exhortó al público a apoyar su labor y conservar las riquezas naturales de Panamá. En las fotos, Miss Universo es acompañada por Ira Rubinoff, Mónica Alvarado de la Oficina de Divulgación, Cristián Samper, y el administrador de la ANAM, Ricardo Anguizola (primero desde la izquierda en la foto en la escalera).

(Photos by Marcos A. Guerra)

Congratulations!

To Michael Blum, Duke University, who successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled "Neotropical butterfly hybrid zone formation and stability" on Monday, November 4. Blum's research was carried forward at STRI in Eldredge Bermingham's laboratory under the auspices of the NSF graduate fellowship program.

To Meylín Hernández, for obtaining her bachelor's degree in business administration for tourism, at ULACIT, on Friday, November 8.

STRI-online

Laurance, William F. 2002. Conservations at loggerheads over World Bank proposal. BioMedNet. Online, 29 October 2002 at www.biomednet.com

STRI in the news

Los tesoros del río La Villa, por Eva Aguilar. 2002. *La Prensa* (November 6): 4B.

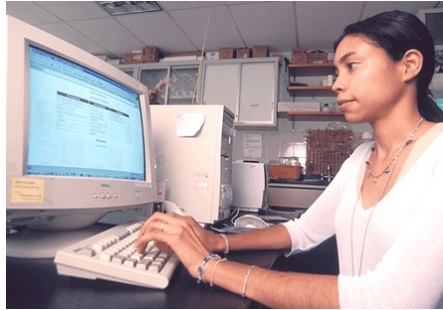
New publications

Blum, Michael J. 2002. "Rapid movement of a *Heliconius* hybrid zone: Evidence for phase III of Wright's shifting balance theory?" *Evolution* 56(10): 1992-1998.

Gilbert, Gregory S., and Sousa, Wayne P. 2002. "Host specialization among wood-decay Polypore fungi in a Caribbean mangrove forest." *Biotropica* 34(3): 396-404.

ICBG completes database system for ANAM

Last year, the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups Program (ICBG) donated a computer server and database to the Panamanian Authority for the Environment (ANAM), to process flora and fauna export permits electronically, including those of STRI. On Wednesday October 30th, the Database for the Management of Permits was formally inaugurated by administrator Ricardo Anguizola and Natural Patrimony head Ricardo Rivera from ANAM, and Elena Lombardo, advisor for External Affairs and ICBG coordinator Todd Capson, from STRI. The system, designed and implemented for ANAM's Intranet by ICBG systems analyst Lorna Sánchez, allows all personnel, including those in regional offices, to access the information.



Lorna Sánchez

El año pasado, el programa de Grupos de Colaboración Internacional para la Biodiversidad (ICBG) donó un servidor de computadora y base de datos a la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente, ANAM, para procesar permisos de exportación de flora y fauna, incluyendo los de STRI. El miércoles 30 de octubre, la Base de Datos para la Administración de Permisos fue inaugurada formalmente por el administrador Ricardo Anguizola y el director de Patrimonio Natural Ricardo Rivera, de ANAM, y Elena Lombardo, asesora de Asuntos Externos y Todd Capson, coordinador del ICBG, de STRI. El sistema, diseñado por Lorna Sánchez, analista de sistemas del ICBG para el Intranet de ANAM, permite que todo el personal, incluyendo oficinas regionales, tenga acceso a la información.



A group of special children from Instituto Panamericano de Habilitación Especial (IPHE) visited the Marine Exhibitions Center at Punta Culebra on Wednesday, October 30, as part of the STRI program "You and the Sea with the Smithsonian."

Un grupo de niños especiales del Instituto Panamericano de Habilitación Especial (IPHE) visitaron el Centro de Exhibiciones de Punta Culebra, el miércoles, 30 de octubre, como parte del programa de STRI "Tú y el mar con el Smithsonian."

More publications

Hahn, Daniel A., and Wheeler, Diana E. 2002. "Seasonal foraging activity and bait preferences of ants on Barro Colorado Island, Panama." *Biotropica* 34(3): 348-356.

Heckadon Moreno, Stanley. 2002. "Thomas Selfridge: en los ríos Sucubtí, Sasardi y Morti, 1870." *"Epocas" Segunda Era (Supplement to La Prensa)* 17(10): 2-3.

Hughes, William O.H., Eilenberg, Jorgen, and Boomsma, Jacobus J. 2002. "Trade-offs in group living: transmission and disease resistance in leaf-cutting ants." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London) B* 269(1502): 1811-1819.

Samudio, Rafael. 2002. "Mamíferos de Panamá." In Ceballos, Gerardo, and Simonetti, Javier A. (Eds.), *Diversidad y conservación de los mamíferos neotropicales*: 415-451. México D.F.: Conabio and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Van Borm, Steven, and Boomsma, Jacobus J. 2002. "Group-Specific PCR Amplification of SSU rRNA Encoding Gene Fragments From 12 Microbial Taxa." *Molecular Ecology Notes* 2(3): 356-359.

Villesen, Palle, Gertsch, Pia J., and Boomsma, Jacobus J. 2002. "Microsatellite primers for fungus-growing ants." *Molecular Ecology Notes* 2(3): 320-322.