

Summary:

- 1) Tropical@ – new group e-mail address
- 2) ****NEW**** Amazon research e-list – sign up now!
- 3) Tropical PhD project available in Cambridge – NERC funding available
- 4) Two Earthwatch lectures – RGS London
- 5) Global change in tropical ecosystems meeting – Costa Rica
- 6) Research highlights from BES journals and TEG members

William

tropical@britishecologicalsociety.org
-----**1) [TROPICAL@BRITISHECOLOGICALSOCIETY.ORG](mailto:tropical@britishecologicalsociety.org)**

The BES have provided each of the Special Interest Groups with a unique e-mail address to help with the coordination of group activities and provide continuity when group secretaries change. The TEG now has the rather fabulous e-mail address: tropical@britishecologicalsociety.org please use this to contact me regarding group activities!

Also, check out the new official BES web site: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/>

2) AMAZON RESEARCH E-LIST

The goal of this site and email list is to provide a forum for communication between scientists who work in the Amazon and are based in UK institutions. The remit is very broad and includes researchers who study a wide range of environmental and social problems and issues, as well as those working at different spatial and temporal scales. The list is also open to those who have an active interest in research being conducted in the Amazon by the UK research community.

This Network grew out of a very successful meeting in the Natural History Museum (London) in October 2008, where scientists from a wide range of disciplines met to discuss their research and ideas on how to encourage more effective communication and collaboration between individuals and institutions.

It is our hope that this email-list will provide an important first step for sharing and exchanging research opportunities and challenges, ideas, funding calls, student positions, data availability, events, conferences, or whatever other kinds of information that can generally facilitate and catalyse more effective and interdisciplinary research.

Our ability to confront the complex and large-scale questions that are so characteristic of the Amazon can only be enhanced by exploiting opportunities to improve communication amongst complementary research groups. We hope that this e-list will go some way towards achieving this goal.

To sign up visit:

<https://lists.cam.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/ucam-amazon-ukresearch>

Dr Toby Gardner

<http://www.tropicalforestresearch.org/people/tgardner.aspx>

3) TROPICAL PH.D PROJECT AVAILABLE IN CAMBRIDGE

The Department of Plant Sciences in Cambridge has one NERC funded Research Studentship available this year - closing date for applications 13 March 2009. Please draw this advert to the attention of well qualified candidates. The grant will be awarded to the best qualified applicant. One of the projects available is a study of roots in tropical forest. Anyone interested in this project should get in touch with Ed Tanner (evt1@cam.ac.uk) before making a formal application.

Root and mycorrhizal responses to changing nutrient availability in a tropical forest. Ph D project to be supervised by Dr Edmund Tanner.

We know that roots and mycorrhizas respond to differences in nutrient availability, usually plants increase their root fraction in soils with low nutrient availability; however much of this work is based on crop plants and is done in pots. Working in tropical forest we have reduced nutrient availability by continuously removing litterfall for five years and our measurements of root biomass show that roots are reduced in the litter removal plots not increased, i.e. just the opposite of the paradigm (Sayer et al. 2006 Plant & Soil 281, 5-13). We also have plots where nutrients are increased by adding litter and these also show reduced root biomass. We now need to investigate these finding by measuring fine root and mycorrhiza production and turnover to establish whether production is reduced as well as standing biomass. Thus this project would quantify root and mycorrhizal production in forest plots using root scanning techniques and ingrowth cores combined with plastic meshes of two hole sizes (one to exclude roots the other to exclude mycorrhizas). We would then be able to answer the general question of how root and mycorrhiza production in tropical forest respond to changes in nutrients. Changes in nutrients are likely to become important in tropical areas as tropical developing countries increase their populations and increase the intensity of their agriculture, both of which will increase 'accidental' nutrient supplies to tropical forests. The project would be based at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, a large and well-established tropical research station.

Dr Edmund Tanner

<http://www.plantsci.cam.ac.uk/research/edtanner.html>

4) EARTHWATCH LECTURES

a) Forests and Climate Change

Thursday 26th March, 7.00pm-8.30pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

Our forests, home to an extraordinary range of biodiversity, and arguably one of our greatest safeguards against climate change, continue to be depleted at an alarming rate. How can we set about securing their future?

Chaired by explorer Paul Rose, the speakers are Dr. Mika Peck of the University of Sussex (Climate Change, Canopies, and Wildlife in Ecuador), and Dr. Dan Bebber, Head of Climate Change Research, Earthwatch (The Footprint in the Forest).

Website: http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/get_involved/events08/lecture09-forests/

Ticket only - free to students and current Earthwatch donors; otherwise a donation will be requested on the door.

For tickets and more information contact our Events Department on (01865) 318856;
events@earthwatch.org.uk

b) Conserving Biodiversity in the Americas

Thursday 7th May, 7.00pm-8.30pm at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore,
London SW7 2AR

Speakers: Dr. Richard Bodmer (Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology, and the Wildlife Conservation Society) & Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Sealey (University of Miami). Chaired by explorer, writer and TV presenter Dr. George McGavin.

The very fact that the Amazon and the Caribbean are such attractive locations renders them all the more vulnerable to over-exploitation. Hear how Earthwatch scientists are addressing this issue in the Peruvian Amazon and on the coasts of the Bahamas.

Website: http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/get_involved/events08/lecture09-americas/

Ticket only - free to students and current Earthwatch donors; otherwise a donation will be requested on the door.

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events@earthwatch.org.uk

Simon Laman

Events Officer
Earthwatch Europe
Mayfield House
256 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7DE
U.K.

tel 44 - (0)1865 318856
fax 44 - (0)1865 311383
www.earthwatch.org/europe

5) GLOBAL CHANGE AND TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS & LONG TERM CHANGES IN TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS

Organization for Tropical Studies
22 April – 13 May 2009
Costa Rica

See flier attached: 03_09 e-bulletin 20-OTS flier.pdf

6) HIGHLIGHTS FROM: BES JOURNALS AND TEG MEMBERS

a) TEG member's research

Simon L. Lewis, Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez, Bonaventure Sonké, Kofi Affum-Baffoe, Timothy R. Baker, Lucas O. Ojo, Oliver L. Phillips, Jan M. Reitsma, Lee White, James A. Comiskey, Marie-Noël Djuikouo K, Corneille E. N. Ewango, Ted R. Feldpausch, Alan C. Hamilton, Manuel Gloor,

Terese Hart, Annette Hladik, Jon Lloyd, Jon C. Lovett, Jean-Remy Makana, Yadvinder Malhi, Frank M. Mbago, Henry J. Ndangalasi, Julie Peacock, Kelvin S.-H. Peh, Douglas Sheil, Terry Sunderland, Michael D. Swaine, James Taplin, David Taylor, Sean C. Thomas, Raymond Votere & Hannsjörg Wöll. 2009. **Increasing carbon storage in intact African tropical forests**. *Nature*, 457, 1003-1006.

Yadvinder Malhi, Luiz E. O. C. Aragão, David Galbraith, Chris Huntingford, Rosie Fisher, Przemyslaw Zelazowski, Stephen Sitch, Carol McSweeney, and Patrick Meir , **'Exploring the likelihood and mechanism of a climate change induced dieback of the Amazon Rainforest'**, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2009), published online before print

Anderson, L.O., Malhi, Y., Ladle, R.J., Aragão, L.E.O.C., Shimabukuro, Y., Phillips, O.L., Baker, T., Costa, A.C.L., Espejo, J.S., Higuchi, N., Laurance, W.F., López-González, G., Monteagudo, A., Núñez-Vargas, P., Peacock, J., Quesada, C.A., Almeida, S. and Vásquez, R., **'Influence of landscape heterogeneity on spatial patterns of wood productivity, wood specific density and above ground biomass in Amazonia'**, *Biogeosciences Discussions* (available for open review online)

Malhado, A.C.M., Whittaker, R.J., Malhi, Y., Ladle, R.J., ter Steege, H., Aragão, L.E.O.C., Quesada, C.A., Araujo, A.M., Phillips, O.L., Peacock, J., López-González, G., Baker, T.R., Butt, N., Anderson, L.O., Arroyo, L., Almeida, S., Higuchi, N., Killeen, T.J., Monteagudo, A., Neill, D.A., Pitman, N.C.A., Prieto, A., Salomão, R.P., Silva, N., Vásquez-M, R., Laurance, W.F., Alexiades, M.N. and Ramirez A., H., **'Spatial distribution and functional significance of leaf lamina shape in Amazonian forest trees'**, *Biogeosciences Discussions* (available for open review online)

If I've missed anything or you want YOUR paper featured here just let me know...

William D. Gosling
RCUK Academic Fellow
Earth & Environmental Sciences
CEPSAR
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel. +44 (0)1908 655147
Fax. +44 (0)1908 655151

PALAEOECOLOGY AT THE OU
<http://www.open.ac.uk/science/earthsciences/palaeo/>

BES TROPICAL ECOLOGY GROUP
<http://www.besteg.org>