

Summary:

- 1) TEG Early Career Researcher Meeting – Program now available!
- 2) Nouragues research grants program – work in French Guiana
- 3) Tropical forest plant diversity – volunteer opportunity Belize
- 4) African Journal of Ecology – TEG member appointed Associate Editor
- 5) Research highlights

William

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-----**1) 3RD EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER MEETING
- 30TH & 31ST MARCH 2009**

The 2009 ECRM meeting is now fast approaching. Here is the schedule of what we have to look forward to over the two days. Many congratulations to Francis Brearley and Jennifer Rowntree who have worked so hard to pull all this together. I look forward to seeing you all there and hearing all the great talks!

Day 1: 30th March 2009

12.00-13.00 Registration and lunch

Welcome and Plenary lecture13.00-13.45 **Robin Chazdon**

Prospects for the regeneration of tropical tree species in human-modified landscapes

13.45-14.00 Short break

Session 1 (Chair: Francis Brearley)14.00-14.15 **Lauren Gough**The spatial ecology of *Spartocytisus supranubius*, a dominant endemic shrub in the high-altitude desert of Tenerife14.15-14.30 **Liza Comita**

Abiotic and biotic drivers of seedling survival in a hurricane impacted tropical forest

14.30-14.45 **Royd Vinya**

Variation in hydraulic properties for ten miombo tree species growing on two sites with contrasting mean annual rainfall in Zambia

14.45-15.00 **Alex Twyford**Hybrid vigour and hybrid breakdown in *Begonia* section *Gireoudia*15.00-15.15 **Cordula Lennkh**

Classification and segmentation of a Neotropical rain forest

15.15-16.15 Coffee, cake and poster Session

Session 2 (Chair: Huw Lloyd)

16.15-16.30 **Katy Morgan**

Pleistocene radiation of the forest-dependent *Leucosphyrus* group of *Anopheles* mosquitoes across Southeast Asia

16.30-16.45 **Alan Lee**

Complex claylicks: Identifying environmental factors influencing southeastern Peru's most common avian claylicks as a first step to understanding their usefulness as tools for monitoring parrot populations

16.45-17.00 **Vicky Ogilvy**

Could colour influence mating success in a crepuscular treefrog species?

17.00-17.15 **Romulus Abila**

Trophic relationships among six haplochromine cichlids of Lake Kanyaboli, a satellite lake of Lake Victoria basin, Kenya

17.15-17.30 **Emma Shaw**

Population dynamics of the Mexican Redrumped tarantula (*Brachypelma vagans*) in Belize

18.30 Bar open – Hulme Hall

19.30 - late Dinner and entertainment – Hulme Hall

Day 2: 31st March 2009

Plenary lecture

09.30-10.15 **Charles Sheppard**

Effects of climate change in the oceans, with special reference to coral reefs

10.15-10.45 Coffee break

Session 3 (Chair: Emma Shaw)

10.45-11.00 **Johan Oldekop**

Understanding the lessons and limitations of conservation and development

11.00-11.15 **Sravut Klorvuttimontara**

Modelling the effectiveness of protected areas for conserving species in Thailand under future climate warming

11.15-11.30 **Jose Nuñez-Miño**

Drivers of biodiversity in tropical montane cloud forest

11.30-11.45 **Lydia Cole**

Kaziranga's corridors; for rhinos or for people?

11.45-12.00 **Nathan Truelove**

An evaluation of local participation in rapid biodiversity monitoring of tropical rain forest in the Canton de Loreto, Ecuador

Special lecture

12.00-12.30 **Lloyd Peck**

NERC theme talk

12.30-13.45 Lunch

Session 4 (Chair: Jenny Rowntree)

13.45-14.00 **Sharon Zytynska**

Community genetics in a tropical forest ecosystem: tree host genotype influences epiphyte community structure

14.00-14.15 **Andrew Nottingham**

Tropical forest soil CO₂ efflux: unravelling roots and mycorrhizae

14.15-14.30 **Simon Queenborough**

Phylogenetic scale of niche partitioning and local neighbourhood effects on survival of tropical tree seedlings

14.30-14.45 **Huw Lloyd**

Ecology of threatened high-Andean *Polylepis* bird species: implications for habitat restoration strategies

14.45-15.15 **Lloyd Peck**

Antarctica to the tropics: large scale macrophysiology patterns in the sea

15.15-15.30 BES-TEG business & Meeting close

2) NOURAGUES RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM 2009

– DEADLINE 25/03/2009

French Guiana is a privileged region for developing research projects in biodiversity, systematics, conservation, ecology, biogeochemistry, and evolutionary biology. In 1986, the Nouragues Research Station was established in an undisturbed forest of central French Guiana to study the dynamics of plant and animal populations. The Research Station is a permanent field equipment of the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS, France). It is over 100 km from the nearest village and can only be accessed by boat or by helicopter. Housing, food supply, electricity, laboratory space, and satellite internet access are available at the Station. For more information, see <http://www.nouragues.cnrs.fr>

Jerome Chave

Station de Recherche des Nouragues
Laboratoire Evolution et Diversité Biologique UMR 5174,
Université Paul Sabatier,
Toulouse France

Flier attached (04_09_TEG e-bulletin-Nouragues.pdf)

3) VOLUNTEER RESEARCH ASSISTANT: TROPICAL FOREST PLANT DIVERSITY

– DEADLINE 06/04/2009

DESCRIPTION: Volunteer research position available to study the role of plant-pathogen interactions in maintaining tropical forest plant biodiversity. Field work will be based in Belize, in association with the University of Oxford, UK.

The position will provide excellent research experience and training in tropical forest ecology including botanical and mycological techniques and field experiments. Responsibilities will include collecting, identifying and germinating seeds, maintaining seedlings in shadehouse conditions, establishing, maintaining and monitoring field experiments and sampling and preserving fungal

seedling pathogens. The RA will be working closely with two postdoctoral research associates and a PhD student.

The field site is located adjacent to the Las Cuevas Research Station in the Chiquibul Forest Reserve, Belize, Central America, where the volunteer will be accommodated. Information about Las Cuevas can be found at: <http://www.lascuevas.org/>

QUALIFICATIONS: This temporary position would suit a recent graduate or an experienced field worker interested in tropical forest ecology. Previous field experience in tropical forests is desirable but not essential. Individuals who enjoy field work and working with others, pay attention to detail, and can work long hours under a variety of field conditions are encouraged to apply.

SALARY: This is a volunteer position. Food, lodging, local transport and one return flight to Belize will be provided.

DURATION: This is a temporary position of 3-4 months, ideally starting in May 2009. Start date is negotiable. There will be a six week probationary period.

CLOSING DATE: Applications should arrive by 5 PM, 6 April 2009.

TO APPLY: Send the following to Dr Rachel Gallery (rachel.gallery@zoo.ox.ac.uk):

1. Cover letter that includes information about your interests and qualifications, dates of availability, and contact information.
2. Names, phone numbers, and email addresses of two referees who are familiar with your academic and/or field skills.
3. CV.

Flier attached (04_09_TEG e-bulletin 21-Belize_Oxford.pdf)

3) NEWS: AFRICAN JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY APPOINT TEG COMMITTEE MEMBER AS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Prof. Bryan Shorrocks has just been appointed as the 'Associate Editor' of the African Journal of Ecology, that is published by Wiley/Blackwell. The journal is associated with the East African Wildlife Society, but the journal contents deal with all ecosystems in Africa, including the offshore islands.

Find out more about the journal:

<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0141-6707>

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6) RESEACH HIGHLIGHTS FROM: BES JOURNALS AND TEG MEMBERS

a) TEG member's research

OPEN ACCESS

Menzel, F., Bluthgen, N. & Schmitt, T. **Tropical parabiotic ants: Highly unusual cuticular substances and low interspecific discrimination** *Frontiers in Zoology*
<http://www.frontiersinzoology.com/content/5/1/16>

Marchant, R., Harrison, S.P., Hooghiemstra, H., Markgraf, V., Van Boxel, J.H., Ager, T., Almeida, L., Anderson, R., Baied, C., Behling, H., Berrio, J.C., Burbridge, R., Björck, S., Byrne, R., Bush, M.B., Cleef, A.M., Duivenvoorden, J.F., Flenley, J.R., De Oliveira, P., Van Geel, B., Graf, K.J., Gosling, W.D., Harbele, S., Van Der Hammen, T., S. Hansen, B.C., Horn, S.P., Islebe, G.A., Kuhry, P., Ledru, M.-P., Mayle, F.E., Leyden, B.W., Lozano-García, S., Melief, A.B.M., Moreno, P., Moar, N.T., Prieto, A., Van Reenen, G.B., Salgado-Labouriau, M.L., Schäsighnitz, F., Schreve-Brinkman, E.J., & Wille, M. (2009) **Pollen-based biome reconstructions for Latin America at 0, 6000 and 18 000 radiocarbon years.** *Climate of the Past Discussions*, 5, 369-461. <http://www.clim-past-discuss.net/5/369/2009/cpd-5-369-2009.html>

b) [Journal of Applied Ecology](#) Volume46, Issue2, 2009.

467-475 Disease, predation and demography: assessing the impacts of bovine tuberculosis on African buffalo by monitoring at individual and population levels
P. C. Cross, D. M. Heisey, J. A. Bowers, C. T. Hay, J. Wolhuter, P. Buss, M. Hofmeyr, A. L. Michel, R. G. Bengis, T. L. F. Bird, J. T. Du Toit, W. M. Getz
DOI 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2008.01589.x

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

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