



OTS Specialty Course:

NEOTROPICAL SOCIAL INSECTS

This is a field/lecture course designed to be a combination of lectures, natural history exploration, and hands-on field experience with the diverse social insect fauna of the Neotropics. The course will emphasize behavioral and ecological approaches to the study of insect sociobiology.

The group will work in two distinct habitats in Costa Rica: lowland Caribbean rain forest (La Selva), and premontane forest (Las Cruces), with possible side trips to other habitats.

WHEN: 15-23 March 2009 (arrive Sat. 14 March, depart Tues. 24 March)

WHERE: Costa Rica: La Selva, Las Cruces

FACULTY: Dr. Sean O'Donnell, Univ. of Washington

Dr. Paul Hanson, Univ. of Costa Rica

Dr. William Wcislo, STRI

Dr. Adam Smith, UC Berkeley

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Johel Chaves-Campos

STUDENTS: Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and other interested professionals

Possible Lecture Topics:

- Introduction to Costa Rica (lectures on weather, geology, conservation)
- Major taxa of social insects
- Ecology of social insects: seasonality, elevation, and directional change
- Evolution of social complexity
- Castes and division of labor
- Social parasites and symbionts

Tuition: \$1,600 OTS consortium applicants, \$2,200 non-consortium applicants.

Partial scholarships may be available to students from consortium institutions and Latin American students. Applicants should check with their home institution to arrange academic credit for this course.

For further information: Contact Barbara Lewis [blewis@ots.ac.cr] for application information; Sean O'Donnell [sodonnell@u.washington.edu] for questions on course content.

Deadline for application: November 20, 2008 for priority consideration, followed by rolling admission.

