

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum

Edward O. Wilson University Research Professor, *Emeritus* and Honorary Curator in Entomology
Harvard University 26 Oxford Street Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-2902 USA
TEL: (617) 495-2315 FAX: (617) 495-1224 e-mail: ewilson@oeb.harvard.edu

30 April 2004

Yves Basset, PhD
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
Apartado 2072
Balboa, Ancon
Panama City, Republic of Panama


Dear Yves:

Please forgive this delay in responding to your messages from earlier this month. I've been away a good deal of the past few weeks, with field work in the Dominican Republic and lecture tours, and accumulated a backlog of correspondence—including important letters such as yours.

In any case, having continued to follow the progress of IBISCA in your reports and in the impressive booklet on the international canopy crane network, and with memories still fresh from my visit to the IBISCA sites in Panama, I am enthusiastic about your continued program, and am glad to lend enthusiastic support to the idea of the July 2005 Brussels workshop.

I believe it should be emphasized (to be brief here) that what you and your colleagues are doing is nothing less than opening for research one of the great strata of life on this planet, comparable in biodiversity and the terrestrial environment to the ocean floor. The potential for basic and applied science is limitless.

With best wishes,



Edward O. Wilson
University Research Professor, *Emeritus*

EOW:knh