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## The Evergreen State College

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

10 October 2005

Dear Yves,

It was with great interest that I read the information and recommendations regarding IBISCA. As you are so well aware, we are at a critical time in Earth's history with respect to loss of biological diversity and we must quickly become better informed about the scope of the problem. We urgently need data on the nature of tropical arthropod biodiversity, both the basic description of what species exist and information on their spatial and temporal distribution.

It is obvious that IBISCA is a highly successful project, complementing other major inventory projects such as Janzen's ATBI efforts in Guanacaste, Costa Rica; ALAS, a major arthropod inventory project at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica; and the Discover Life program in The Great Smokey Mountains National Park in the USA.

I am the Scientific Director of Project ALAS, and it is exciting to see multiple inventory efforts and to be involved in them. I am strongly supportive of IBISCA's program and am happy to help out in whatever way I can. The potential for collaboration is large, ranging from simple dialogue and intellectual support to various forms of collaborative work involving field sampling, specimen preparation, and pooling of taxonomic resources.

I look forward to following IBISCA's development and continued implementation.

Sincerely,



John T. Longino, PhD  
Biology Faculty