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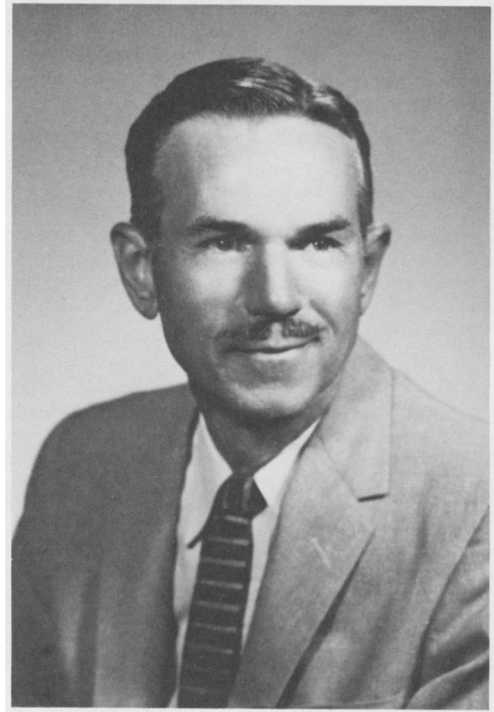
EMINENT ECOLOGIST FOR 1979

Rexford Daubenmire

The Ecological Society of America confers on Rexford Daubenmire its citation of Eminent Ecologist for 1979. By so doing, the Society honors both itself and Dr. Daubenmire.

Rexford Daubenmire, known to many as Dauby, has been an active plant ecologist for over 50 years. During his long career he has taught courses in plant ecology and plant geography; during World War II he taught chemistry to military personnel. As a teacher and researcher in plant ecology Dauby directed the graduate theses of 36 doctoral and 18 M.S. students, and carried on an active research program resulting in 89 publications including 6 monographs, several review papers, and three books; his plant autecology text, *Plants and Environment* is currently in its third edition. This book was the first to give chapter-length discussion to fire as an ecological factor. His other two books are *Plant Communities, a Textbook of Plant Synecology* and *Plant Geography with Special Reference to North America*.

Rexford Daubenmire was born on December 12, 1909, in Coldwater, Ohio. He was an undergraduate at Butler University where he published his first papers in plant ecology. He took his master's degree at the University of Colorado where, under the direction of Francis Ramaley, he did a study on leaf and twig structure of conifers in relation to elevational distribution. For his doctoral studies he went to the University of Minnesota to study under William S. Cooper; there he did an ecological study of the Big Woods of Minnesota. After completing his Ph.D. in 1935, he taught for one year at the University of Tennessee. Early in his career he also taught summer sessions at the University of Minnesota Lake Itasca Field Station and the University of Wyoming Science Camp. From 1936 to 1946 he taught at the University of Idaho, then moved to Washington State University where he served on the faculty of the Botany Department until his retirement in 1975. He spent sabbatical years in Sweden and in Costa Rica. Currently, he is living in Florida with his wife, Jean. He remains ac-



Rexford Daubenmire in 1966 during his term as ESA President.

tive in the field, consulting and lecturing. He led a group of teachers and students on an ecologic excursion to Ecuador in 1977 and this year will lead another group to Africa.

The broad scope of Daubenmire's interests in plant ecology is exemplified by the range of topics covered in his published work. In addition to his career-long interest in vegetation science he has also published on such topics as the occurrence of epiphyllous lichens, the *Agropyron spicatum-A. inerme* complex, effects of cattle grazing on soils and vegetation, growth and phenology of tree species, relation of temperature and soil moisture to the distribution of conifers, hybridization and introgression of species of *Picea*, and autecologic studies of tropical species. In

1945 he constructed and described a compact dial-gauge dendrometer. Later a reasonable facsimile was developed and is now available commercially. It is noteworthy, and indicative of the thoroughness of his research, that during his field studies in northern Idaho he also discovered a new genus of the Boraginaceae, *Dasynotus*. The type species has been named *Dasynotus daubenmirei*.

Eminent Ecologist is a totally appropri-

ate citation for this scholar who has devoted so much of his life to teaching and investigating various basic aspects of plant ecology. His contributions to the field have been many. In his quiet manner Rexford Daubenmire has touched thousands of students and teachers and has influenced to a significant degree our thinking in ecology.

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