

awards

EMINENT ECOLOGIST

William Edwin Ricker

The Eminent Ecologist Award is given to a scientist for continuing, significant contributions to the field of ecology. William E. Ricker is the recipient of the Eminent Ecologist Award for 1990. Born in Watertown, Ontario in 1908, Dr. Ricker received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1936. He held numerous academic and research positions in both Canada and the United States; when he retired in 1973 he was Chief Scientist of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

Dr. Ricker's nearly 200 publications include many path-breaking works in population dynamics and ecological methodology. His population research is perhaps best illustrated by his 1954 paper entitled "Stock and Recruitment." Among other contributions this paper introduced into population dynamics the very important concept of chaos. He is, of course, also known for the development of a variety of analysis techniques for the determination of patterns of recruitment, including the Ricker curve. During his career he authored several books on the estimation and interpretation of biological statistics of populations, particularly those of fish, and described about 80 new species and 46 new genera or subgenera of stoneflies.

Dr. Ricker is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as an honorary member of a number of scientific and conservation societies (and a patron of the Nanaimo Symphony Orchestra, in which he formerly played the bass viol). He has been very active internationally, serving as a member of an F.A.O. advisory panel on the Peruvian anchoveta, as well as advisor to the Canadian delegation at meetings concerned with halibut, tuna, whales, seals, and fisheries of the North Pacific. A number of societies, such as the American Fisheries Society, the Royal



Society of Canada, and the Canadian Society of Zoologists, have presented him with honors and awards. In giving Dr. Ricker the Eminent Ecologist Award of the Ecological Society of America, we recognize an individual who has been a major intellectual force in the understanding and analysis of the dynamics of both natural and applied populations.

Selection Committee:

Sarah Woodin, Chair
Robert Burgess
Eric Charnov
Charles Peterson
Edmund Stiles
Henry Wilbur

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