

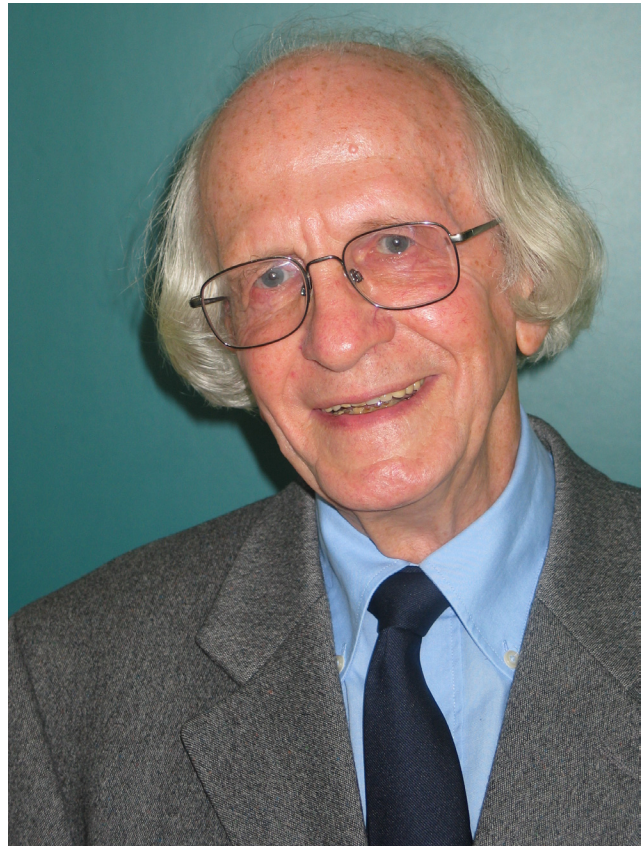
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## 2007 Eminent Ecologist Award

### Otto Lange

The Eminent Ecologist Award is given to a senior ecologist in recognition of an outstanding body of ecological work or sustained ecological contributions of extraordinary merit. Nominees may be from any country and need not be ESA members. Recipients receive lifetime, active membership in the Society. This year's recipient is Otto Lange.

Dr. Lange has had a long and illustrious career in which he has profoundly influenced ecological theory and application. He is one of the founding fathers of plant physiological ecology, and his impact on the field has been vitally important. Dr. Lange has 368 publications on the topic (92 since his retirement), has co-edited 10 books, and is still actively publishing today. He is a dedicated teacher and his scholarship is widespread. Dr. Lange and his students have been, and are today, at the forefront of this discipline.



Dr. Lange is a co-inventor of the portable gas exchange chamber, and he worked on its design for 35 years until the initial trailer-mounted, truck-pulled unit eventually became the current portable photosynthesis system. He was instrumental in the development of the mini-cuvette system that allows long enclosure of leaves with full control of conditions such as light, temperature, humidity, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. Dr. Lange also developed a chamber for lichens and mosses. After his retirement in 1992, he designed and developed the automated cuvette, which continuously monitors CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes and now is an important tool used by scientists studying carbon flux. Today, these gas exchange systems are a fundamental tool in most studies of carbon cycling and net ecosystem exchange at both a local and flux tower scale.

Dr. Lange has also contributed to the larger field of ecology. He convinced Dr. Konrad Springer that the Springer-Verlag "Ecological Studies" book series would be an excellent addition to the Springer book line, and he has been an editor for that series since its inception. Dr. Lange also assisted in the conversion of *Oecologia* from a journal dedicated to animal morphology and ecology to one that included plant ecology as well. He became its first plant ecology editor and remains an editor for the journal today. Dr. Lange and Dr. A. Pirson also started Springer's *Encyclopedia of Plant Physiology*, which combined plant physiology and ecology; Dr. Lange became the organizer and senior editor of four volumes that contributed decisively to the establishment of ecology as a serious discipline of plant science in Europe. He is also currently an editor for *TREES*, *Flora*, *Photosynthetica*, *Botanica Acta*, *Biochemie und Physiologie der Pflanzen* (Biochemistry and Physiology of Plants), and the *Man and the Biosphere* series (UNESCO).