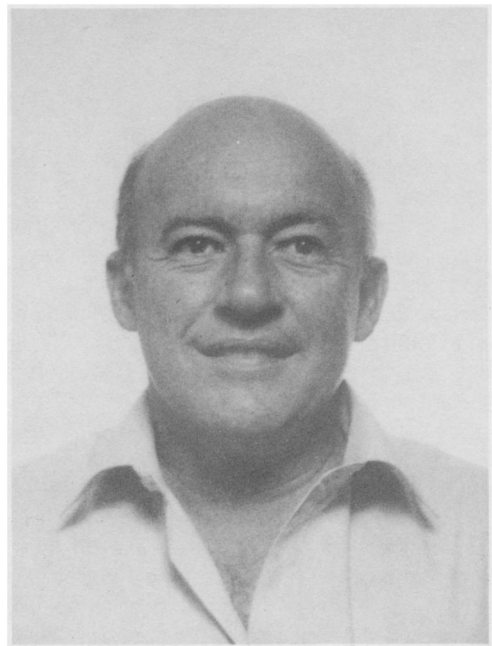


Ernesto A. Medina G. was born in Venezuela where he obtained an undergraduate degree in Biology at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. His published thesis on the temperature and light responses of C_3 and C_4 plants was extremely well received, and was the first of many contributions Dr. Medina would make in plant physiological ecology.

After he finished his undergraduate degree in 1961, he went to Germany to study under the direction of Prof. H. Walter at the University of Hohenheim, in Stuttgart. In a very short time, he received a doctorate in Agronomy for his work on the relationships between chlorophyll content, leaf area development, and the production of organic matter in natural and cultivated plant communities. He then returned to Venezuela where he was offered the position of "Professor Instructor" (Assistant Professor) at the Universidad Central in Caracas. Here he began work on savanna ecology, examining the effects of nutrient availability on photosynthesis and plant productivity under natural field conditions. This theme has been the foundation for much of his work, including studies in forests on nutrient-poor sands of the Rio Negro region. This body of work has been a classic in showing how plants are physiologically adapted to the environment, and how this influences community structure. Few could have developed such a comprehensive picture of such a complex natural community.

Since 1970, Dr. Medina has held a position in the Department of Ecology at the prestigious Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC). Here he continued his outstanding work in physiological ecology, making important contributions in the study of Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM), in plant/soil interactions, in epiphyte biology, and in savanna ecology. The value of this work is broadly recognized, and he has received several international awards and all the highest national prizes for scientific talent.

In addition to his impressive work in Venezuela, Ernesto Medina has been invited to join research groups abroad. In 1970 he did postdoctoral research at the Carnegie Institution (Stanford, California) with Dr. O. Bjorkman. His seminal work on the effects of light and nutrients on photosynthesis has led to a



whole school of cost/benefit analysis of leaves. On a sabbatical leave in 1979, Dr. Medina was a guest at both the Australian National University and Stanford University (USA). During this time he showed that the amount of nighttime acid accumulation in CAM plants exactly matched the amount of CO_2 uptake. This relationship has since been confirmed in many other CAM families.

Dr. Medina has also been extremely active in promoting interest in tropical research. His list of collaborations with international agencies is impressive, including projects with MAB, INTECOL, SCOPE, OAS, and FAO. He has helped establish a very substantial school of plant ecology in Venezuela by training 27 students through IVIC and the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He is a productive and prolific writer, with 5 books and 100 articles in English, German, and Spanish.

Dr. Ernesto Medina is a truly distinguished scholar, with great energy and breadth of talents. He is among the top ecophysiologicalists in the world, and we are proud to offer him an Honorary Membership in the Ecological Society of America. Dr. Medina's nomination was supported by letters from P. D. Coley, T. A.

Kursar, A. E. Lugo, H. A. Mooney, and J. F. McCormick.

*Selected Publications of
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Written by Phyllis D. Coley

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