

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Henri Decamps

Honorary membership in the Ecological Society of America is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of ecology and who live and work outside of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

The 1998 Honorary Member is Dr. Henri Decamps. Dr. Decamps is the former Director of the Centre d'Ecologie des Systemes Fluviaux, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, in Toulouse, France.

Over nearly three decades of scientific investigations, Dr. Decamps has distinguished himself as one of the eminent scholars addressing the ecological dynamics of riverine corridors. His research, publications, and concepts have resulted in major programs of global significance, and have formed the basis for much of what is known today about the ecological management of large rivers. It was his early applications of principles of landscape ecology to riverine ecosystems that resulted in the recent advances in understanding the mechanisms driving the patch and boundary dynamics of riparian vegetation and how those processes affected characteristics within the

active channel. This is especially evident in his pioneering work, and that of his students, on how specific riparian communities control the movement of nutrients from agricultural areas to rivers in southern France. Through his direct involvement with resource managers and ecologists, many of these advances are being put to practical use in southern France as well as in many other European and North American countries.

Additionally, he provided the vision and innovation needed to assemble wide-ranging perspectives to focus on issues related to land–water interactions. It was his fundamental ideas and multinational leadership that resulted in the formation of the “European River Margins” research consortium of five laboratories and the UNESCO “Ecotone Programme,” involving over 100 researchers from 42 countries. He has been able to accomplish this while, at the same time, maintaining his own productive program on vegetative processes, decomposition dynamics, and nutrient fluxes in riparian zones and (until last year) directing a CNRS research laboratory of nearly 60 people.

His contributions are well recognized within France as well as around the world. He was recently elected to the Academy of Sciences in France. It is my understanding that Dr. Decamps is the first ecologist to be elected to the French Academy of Sciences. He is the immediate past president of the International Association for Landscape Ecology, and in 1996 he presented the Edgardo Baldi Memorial Lecture at the International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology Congress in Brazil.

Honorary Member Subcommittee

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