
Honorary Member Award

Erkki Haukioja

University of Turku

The ESA's Honorary Member Award recognizes a distinguished ecologist from outside of North America who has made exceptional contributions to the field of ecology. It includes a lifetime membership in the ESA.

The 2005 winner is Dr. Erkki Haukioja. The influence of Professor Haukioja's ideas has been broadly international, not only through his widely cited and highly influential publications, but through leadership in international organizations and personal contacts with colleagues. An integrator of information and ideas across cultures and an open communicator, he is a gracious host and sought-after visitor. He has been a member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences since 1981.



For more than three decades, Professor Haukioja has explored the intricate and tangled complexities of the interactions between Fennoscandian mountain birch and its herbivores. His pioneering work on inducible plant defenses in the 1970s stimulated the establishment of a large and active new area of research, and he has continued to provide intellectual leadership throughout his career. His early appreciation of the role of the host plant in population dynamics of herbivores, and exceptional creativity in testing hypotheses reshaped ecological approaches to studies of plant–herbivore interactions, forest pests, and population dynamics. He has seamlessly integrated the detailed study of mechanisms with the testing of grand hypotheses in a complex model system. Beyond the basic knowledge that they have produced, Professor Haukioja's remarkable breadth of contributions have informed public policy in Finland and elsewhere.

Professor Haukioja has developed one of the premier ecology programs in Scandinavia. He has contributed decades of untiring service to the University of Turku, and the Kevo Subarctic Research Station, which he directed for many years. Professor Haukioja has mentored more than 50 graduate students and post-docs, many of them from outside Finland, who are now making sustained contributions of their own. His success as a mentor and colleague is a credit not only to his keen intellect, broad thinking, and unusually effective application of hypothetico-deductive science, but also to his contagious enthusiasm for natural history and the science of ecology.