

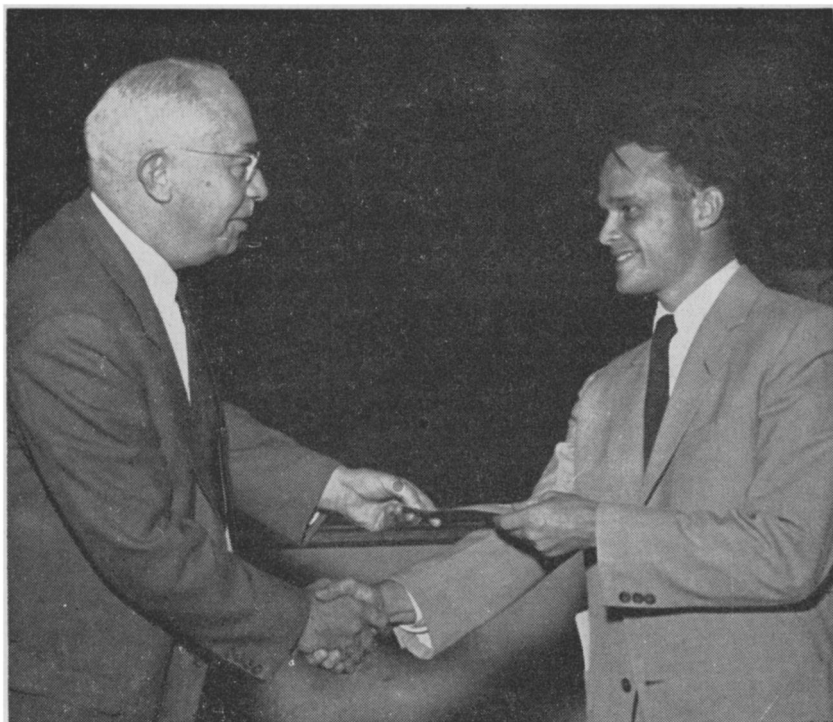
# BULLETIN OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Dr. Goodrich C. White (left), President of Emory University, presents the George Mercer Award to Dr. F. H. Bormann, Assistant Professor of Biology at Emory University, on behalf of the Ecological Society of America.

## THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD — 1954

Winner of the George Mercer Award for 1954 is Dr. F. H. Bormann, of the Biology Department of Emory University. The award was given to Dr. Bormann on the basis of his paper—"Factors Determining the Role of Loblolly Pine and Sweetgum in Early Old Field Succession in the Piedmont of North Carolina", published in **Ecological Monographs** 23:339-358. The Mercer Award is made each year to a young man who, during the previous two years, has published an outstanding ecological paper.

Dr. Bormann was asked to send in a brief account of his training in ecology. He writes:

"As an undergraduate at Rutgers University I majored in plant pathology, but as a result of contact with plant ecology through M. F. Buell's course my interests swung firmly in the ecological direction. Two summers as research assistant to Dr. Buell at the Biological Station of the University of Minnesota resulted in further experience and the development of an interest in the problems of boreal vegetation. In 1948, I accepted a teaching assistantship at Duke University. Graduate studies with H. J. Oosting resulted in a greater appreciation of the depth and scope of ecology and in a more critical approach to its subject material. Association with P. J. Kramer, F. X. Schumacher, and T. S. Coile lead to a more solid understanding of the intimate relationships of physiology, statistics, and soils to the fundamental problems of ecology. Both the Master's and Ph.D degrees, completed in 1950 and 1952 respectively, were under Dr. Oosting's direction. Since 1952 I have been on the staff of Emory University. During the summer of 1953 I was a member of the Boston University Expedition to Arctic Alaska and in the summer of 1954 I received a National Science Foundation grant to carry forward research on the ecology of the southern pine."