

GEORGE MERCER AWARD



Lars Hedin

The George Mercer Award is presented to an individual under 40 years of age who has authored an outstanding ecological article. The 1996 Mercer Award is given to Dr. Lars Hedin of Cornell University. Lars was first author on the paper, "Patterns of nutrient loss from unpolluted, old-growth temperate forests: evaluation of biogeochemical theory (*Ecology* 76:493–509). This work relates biogeochemical phenomena with evolutionary constraints of organisms living under near-pristine atmospheric conditions. These findings argue that "the patterns of N cycling, as well as evolutionary selective pressures on plant and microbial species may have changed as a function of regional scale increases in atmospheric N deposition" (p. 493). These findings

have substantial theoretical and conceptual merit as well as important information relevant to current efforts in biogeochemistry and biological diversity. This paper is a remarkable synthesis of current knowledge and important new results linking physiological processes, population characteristics, and ecosystem phenomena.

George Mercer Award Subcommittee

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