

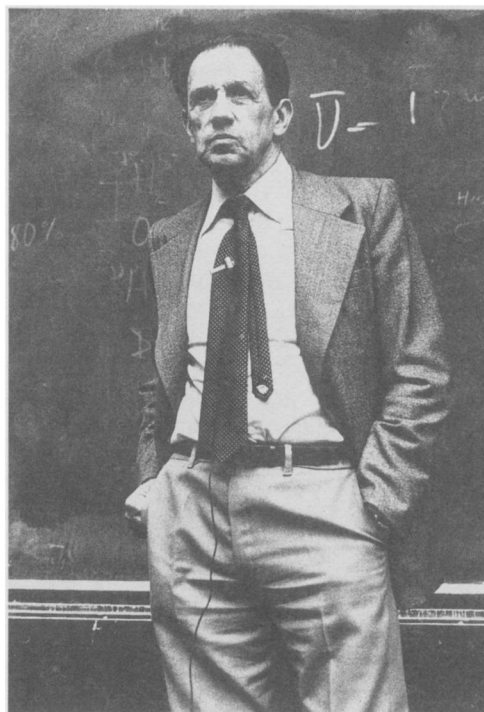
HONORARY MEMBERS

Ramon Margalef

During his career as a biologist spanning almost a half-century, Ramon Margalef of Barcelona, Spain, has made invaluable contributions in the fields of theoretical ecology, biological oceanography, limnology, and anthropology. He has published some 350 articles and a half-dozen books, many in Spanish and Catalan. *Perspectives in Ecological Theory*, published in English in 1968, had an important impact on ecologists at that time. Many of his articles are conceptual, filled with creative and controversial thoughts about external energy, ecological equilibria, spatial boundaries and the importance of scale, successional processes as a brake on evolution, and others. A recent article in English is entitled, "Facts of life not to be overlooked in preparing schoolbooks for our grandchildren."

Professor Margalef is the founder of modern limnological studies in Spain and Latin America, and perhaps his greatest contributions have been in this field. He is always the synthesizer and unifier; in his 1980 book, whose Spanish title can be translated, *The Biosphere: Between Thermodynamics and Gambling*, he writes: "One of my purposes is to show that ecology is more 'transdisciplinary' than 'interdisciplinary' in the sense that it . . . brings together areas of human knowledge that are traditionally separated from one another." His texts, *Ecologia* (1974) and *Limnologia* (1983) provide the Spanish-speaking world with authoritative and internationally comprehensive references in these fields.

Born in 1919 in Barcelona, he began his studies in business school, but soon developed an interest in biology. His education was interrupted by military service during the Spanish Civil War. At the end of his military service he took a job with an insurance company, but pursued his scientific interests at the Botanic Institute of Barcelona, building his own microscope and beginning an intensive study of algae. His studies attracted the attention of university officials, who offered him a fellowship for study in the natural sciences. By 1951, he had received his doctorate and



became a member of the Fisheries Research Institute of the Spanish National Research Council. In 1966 he became director of the Institute, and was appointed to the first Chair of Ecology in Spain at the University of Barcelona. He retired from this position in 1986.

Ramon Margalef's human qualities match his scientific achievements. With students, he is unstinting of his time, always ready to offer an enthusiastic and challenging response to their ideas. As a major professor and thesis advisor, he was responsible for the work of graduate students who now teach and conduct research in Spain and around the world, while his tireless efforts put Spanish research centers and publications at an international level.

Written by
Myriam Ibarra
John J. Magnuson
Gene Rosenberg
(from a vita)