

ROBERT H. MACARTHUR AWARD



James H. Brown

The Robert H. MacArthur Award is given once every two years to an established ecologist in midcareer for meritorious contributions to ecology, in the expectation of continued outstanding ecological research. The winner of the MacArthur Award in 2002 is James H. Brown, Regents Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico. Professor Brown was chosen based on a wide range of seminal studies and his ability to blend theoretical and empirical studies. His work on desert rodent communities is classic and has greatly advanced our understanding of animal communities. His application of island biogeography theory to mountaintops as islands was ingenious and innovative. His work in developing, with Brian Maurer, the nascent discipline of macroecology has been seminal. Like few others, Jim Brown is a consummate ecologist, with triumphs ranging from physiology to ecosystems, and with a strong evolutionary context.

Despite these great accomplishments, which alone would be strong justification for the award, it is Jim's latest work with Brian Enquist and

Geoff West on scaling and allometry that might have the widest impact. Using realistic constraints and optimization principles, they have been able to reproduce an amazing range of allometric relationships seen in nature. It is, of course, hard to separate the contributions of the three individuals, each of whom brings unique skills to the table, but Jim's imprint is unmistakable.

Jim Brown is in the finest tradition of the MacArthur Award, using mathematical models skillfully to explain patterns in nature. He is clearly one of the leaders in the ecological community and it is with pleasure that ESA recognizes him as the 2002 MacArthur Award recipient.

*MacArthur Award Subcommittee:
Simon A. Levin (Chair), Rob Colwell,
Carla D'Antonio, Diane Marshall,
Judy Meyer, Alison Power, and Peter
Vitousek.*