

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD FOR 1966



The George Mercer Award for 1966 was awarded to Dr. C. S. Holling, Forest Research Laboratory, Victoria, British Columbia for his paper "The Functional Response of Predators to Prey Density and its Role in Mimicry and Population Regulation" in *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada* Vol. 45, 3-60, 1965.

This award was announced at the Annual Banquet of the Society in College Park, Maryland on August 17, 1966. A check for \$100.00 that accompanied this award was presented to Dr. Holling by Mr. R. R. Lejeune, Regional Director, Forest Research Laboratory, Canada.

C. S. Holling, called "Buzz" because of an early and fortunately unsuccessful interest in bombs, received his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Toronto in 1952, an M.A. from the same university in 1954, and a Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia in 1957. He has been continuously employed since 1954 by the Forest Research Branch of the Canada Department of Forestry. The length of his stay with this organization and the quality of support provided, is a testament to the enlightened research policy and to the encouragement and direction provided by its head, Dr. M. L. Prebble and by other members of the organization—Dr. R. F. Morris, Dr. K. E. F. Watt, and Dr. W. G. Wellington. He was stationed at the Forest Insect Laboratory until 1964, when he was supported by the Department of Forestry during a stimulating six-month sabbatical, studying fish behavior at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Laboratory, Honolulu, Hawaii. The final six-months of the sabbatical, supported by the University of California, was spent lecturing in population ecology and developing computer programs at the Dept. of Entomology, University of California (Berkeley). He is now stationed at the Forest Research Laboratory, Victoria, British Columbia. His research has concentrated on processes that affect animal populations with the aim of developing an integrated, precise, and realistic view of

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population events that has theoretical and practical consequences. The specific approach used represents an attempt to blend the strengths of strong inference and the comparative method in experimental analysis together with the great potential of techniques of synthesis and simulation that have appeared with the development of computers.

The George Mercer Award was established in 1948 by a member of the Ecological Society of America in honor of a young naturalist and ecologist who was killed in World War I. Its purpose is “to encourage others to publish papers comparable with those it is reasonable to suppose he would have published if he had lived.” The award is made each year to a young man, who in the previous 2 years, has published an outstanding paper in ecology.