

awards

MERCER AWARD FOR 1978



The George Mercer Award for 1978 goes to Dr. Earl E. Werner for his paper entitled "Species Packing and Niche Complementarity in Three Sunfishes" that appeared in the May–June 1977 issue of *The American Naturalist* (111:553–578). Dr. Werner's work is recognized because it successfully blends field observation, large-scale manipulations in experimental ponds, laboratory experiments, and theoretical work to give a convincing demonstration of the role played by competition in structuring natural communities. The procedures developed by Dr. Werner in this research reflect new standards of investigation that are leading young ecologists to more critical insights on the importance of interspecific competition in nature, a subject that has long been a central concern in both ecological and evolutionary theory.

Dr. Werner received his A.B. degree from Columbia University and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Following his graduation, he served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa until he returned to Michigan State in 1973. He is currently an Associate Professor of Zoology at Michigan State where much of his activity is centered at the Kellogg Biological Station near Gull Lake.

The award is being presented to Dr. Werner (second from left) by the President Edgar L. Harden of Michigan State University (second from right). Also pictured are John E. Cantlon, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (right) and George H. Lauff, Director of the Kellogg Biological Station.