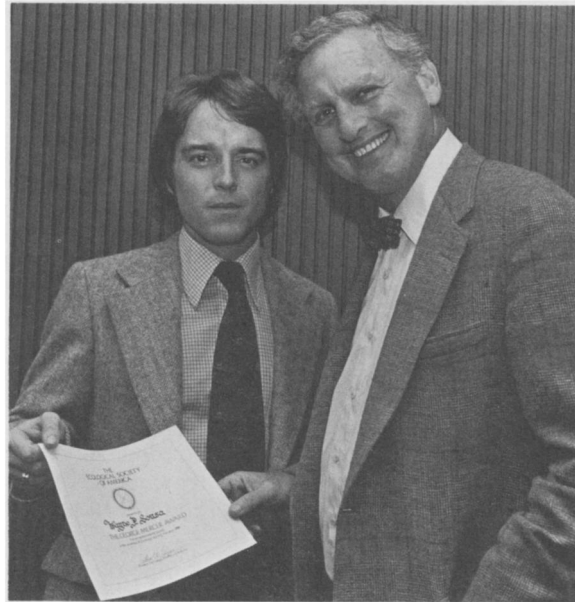


Wayne P. Sousa

The George Mercer Award is given annually to a young ecologist in recognition of outstanding ecological research published in the United States or Canada within the preceding two years. It is the highest form of recognition for published ecological research awarded by the Ecological Society of America.

Dr. Wayne P. Sousa, Assistant Professor of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, is recognized for his paper "Experi-

mental investigations of disturbance and ecological succession in a rocky intertidal algal community," which appeared in *Ecological Monographs* 49:227-254, 1979. By using appropriate and clever field experiments, Dr. Sousa was able to define successional patterns in intertidal algal communities. He delineated the competitive processes which drive the succession and discovered that without particular types of disturbances, the seral stages in-



Mercer Award winner Wayne P. Sousa (left) with Ira Michael Heyman, Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley.

hibited the succession. In addition, some forms of disturbance temporarily redirect the successional process. This paper represents an important step in the current re-evaluation of successional processes.

Written by Paul Dayton.

Screening Subcommittee for the George Mercer Award: Margaret Davis, Gerald Lang, Jon Roughgarden, Boyd Strain, John Teal, John Terborgh, Francesco Trama.

Selection Committee: Paul Dayton, Frances James, Richard T. T. Forman (Chairman).

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