

MERCER AWARD

Mercer Award winner Kenneth P. Sebens with
Derek Bok, President of Harvard University

The George Mercer Award is given annually to a young ecologist in recognition of outstanding 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. Kenneth Peter Sebens, Associate Professor of Biology, Harvard University, is recognized for his paper, "The limits to indeterminate growth: an optimal size model applied to passive suspension feeders." The paper appeared in *Ecology* in 1982 (63:209–222). This work examined the interaction between energy acquisition and expenditure as a function of animal size in the sea anemone *Anthopleura xanthogrammica* in the rocky coastal zone in Washington State. It is a fine example of the blending of laboratory experimentation, field natural history, and mathematics to increase ecological understanding.



While applied to a particular species, this research has wide-ranging implications for many invertebrates and fish. Dr. Sebens is continuing his research on rocky intertidal or-

**ganisms with a more recent emphasis on New
England organisms.**

Written by W. John O'Brien

Selection Committee:

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Source: Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, Vol. 65, No. 1 (Mar., 1984), pp. 19-20. Courtesy of JSTOR