

## MERCER AWARD

Phyllis D. Coley

Phyllis D. Coley is the recipient of the George Mercer Award for 1984. The Mercer Award is presented annually to a young ecologist in recognition of an outstanding paper published during the previous two years.

Dr. Coley receives the award in recognition of her paper, "Herbivory and defense characteristics of tree species in a lowland tropical forest," published in *Ecological Monographs* in 1983 (53:209–233). In this paper, she carefully documents rates of herbivory in relation to the defensive characteristics of 46 tree species in a tropical rain forest. Her experimental approach, statistical rigor, and thoughtful discussion make this paper an important contribution to our understanding of herbivory in natural communities.

The research was completed while Dr. Coley was a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Utah.

Written by H. Ronald Pulliam

### Selection Committee:

H. Ronald Pulliam, Chair  
David Allen  
Jane Bock  
Don Hall  
Sam McNaughton  
David Vleck  
Peter Waser



Mercer Award winner Phyllis D. Coley receiving certificate from Chase N. Peterson, President of the University of Utah.