

distinguished service citation

Jack Major

The Distinguished Service Citation was established by Council in 1975 to honor members whose outstanding contributions to ESA deserve special recognition. Dr. Jack Major is the first recipient of the Citation.

Jack Major received his doctorate in plant ecology and soil science from the University of California in 1953. Three years later, in 1956, his first book review for the Ecological Society of America appeared. Since that time, a total of 89 separate review articles have been published in the pages of *ECOLOGY*. Over the past 19 years, Major has averaged 4.7 reviews per year, reaching highs of nine in 1974, and seven each in 1962 and 1971. On only two occasions has his output dropped to two articles, following the initial 1956 submission. Important, the 89 articles represent reviews of 117 books and monographs, as he was one of the first to recognize the utility of multi-volume comparisons in critical reviewing.

For many years his facility with both French and German provided a series of provocative

reviews of European ecological literature. Significantly, he has also been the only individual both competent and willing to handle the Russian output, an effort that has grown commensurate, in both quality and quantity, with that of the United States.

Published reviews provide, of course, an introduction to the textual content and an evaluative judgment of its worth. It is thus an opinion, an editorial, and a conscience. For the careful reader, Major's reviews have consistently pointed out gaps in our own knowledge of American ecosystems and have indicated directions for fruitful new research. In summary, the readership of *ECOLOGY* would be immeasurably poorer without his dedicated, unremunerative, and unsung efforts.

In consideration, therefore, of this signal service to ecology and the Ecological Society of America, the Council of ESA is proud to present this Distinguished Service Citation to Dr. Jack Major.

Richard S. Miller, President