

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION



Robert K. Colwell

The Distinguished Service Citation is given annually in recognition of long and distinguished service to the Ecological Society of America, to the larger scientific community, and to the larger purpose of ecology in the public

welfare. The winner of the 1999 Distinguished Service Citation is Robert K. Colwell of the University of Connecticut. Rob Colwell has had a central, indispensable role in bringing ESA into the electronic age. ESA is in the forefront of electronic publications because of his vision, skills, and continuing guidance. As ESA Vice President and head of the ad hoc committee on ESA communications in the electronic age, Rob and his committee began ESA's home page. They obtained Mellon Foundation funding to make past issues of ESA journals accessible through the JSTOR project, to make current issues electronically accessible, and to update the once hopelessly inadequate membership database and make it available to members through the Web. Dr. Colwell's research has focused on species interactions and coevolution, particularly between arthropods and plants in tropical rain forest environments. As an extension of his research and his interest and expertise in information management, Rob created a biodivers-

ity database manager, *Biota*, that has been praised as an unparalleled software tool for biologists who manage biodiversity information. Biota has found wide application by ecologists, conservation biologists, managers, and systematists. Professor Colwell has also served as President of the American Society of Naturalists. He has been on national and international panels evaluating ecological and evolutionary risk assessment in agricultural biotechnology involving the release of genetically engineered organisms. For his service to the Society, to the scientific community, and to the purpose of ecology in the public welfare, Robert Colwell is an outstanding recipient of the Distinguished Service Citation.

Distinguished Service Citation Subcommittee

Deborah E. Goldberg (Chair), C. Richard Tracy, Steve Carpenter, Pam Matson, Judy Meyer, Bruce Menge, Steven Pacala