

from the society

Robert E. Ricklefs to receive the 2011 Alfred Russel Wallace Award in Crete

The Alfred Russel Wallace Award was established by the International Biogeography Society in 2004 to recognize a lifetime of outstanding contributions by an eminent scholar in any subdiscipline of biogeography. Previous recipients include Drs. Jack Briggs, Jared Diamond and John Avise.

The ARW Award committee has endorsed the nomination of Robert E. Ricklefs for the 2011 Alfred Russel Wallace Award, because of his major contributions in the fields of ecology, evolution and biogeography. This nomination has now been approved by the IBS Board of Directors.

Robert E. Ricklefs' highly multidisciplinary research has contributed greatly to a better understanding of species diversity and ecological communities across space and time. His research interests span the evolutionary diversification of avian growth and life histories, the historical development of ecological communities, and how the evolution of regional biotas determines species richness locally. Through these studies, he has explored how the factors promoting diversification – such as selection, speciation, and dispersal – are balanced by constraints that limit the response to selection or the coexistence of species. By integrating data and approaches from the fields of evolution and ecology, he has been able to make profound insights into the factors that underlie biogeographical patterns in the diversity of local communities.

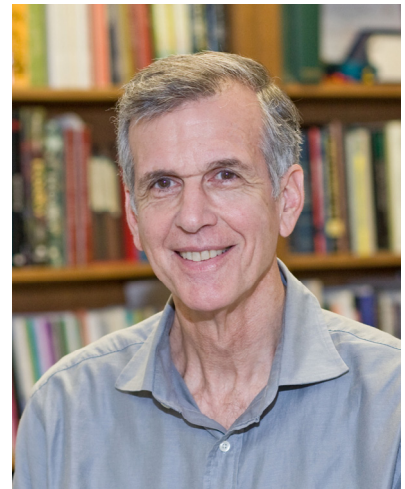
Dr. Ricklefs is currently Curators' Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri at St. Louis. His scientific productivity and influence on ecology and biogeography are outstanding: he is the author or coauthor of four books and two popular ecology textbooks (*Ecology* and *The Economy of Nature*), which have appeared in many editions since the 1970s. These texts have set the standard for ecology teaching for more than 30 years. Dr. Ricklefs has written almost 300 peer-reviewed papers and more than 80 other articles,

many of which have appeared in *Science*, *Nature* and other top-tier journals.

Dr. Ricklefs has received many honors, including the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in 2009, and the President's Award

(1999) and Sewall Wright Award (2005) of the American Society of Naturalists. The latter honors a senior but still active investigator who is making fundamental contributions to the conceptual unification of the biological sciences. He is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1984), a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1993), and in 2009 was elected to the National Academy of Sciences of the USA.

Dr. Ricklefs will give the Wallace Award keynote lecture at the 5th Biennial meeting of the IBS in Crete, 7-11 January, 2011. He is also co-organizer, with Dr. Dave Jenkins from the University of Central Florida, of a symposium entitled "Biogeography and Ecology: Two Lenses in One Telescope", scheduled for 9th January.



Felisa Smith

Chair of the Alfred Russel Wallace Award
committee

Robert J. Whittaker

President of the International Biogeography
Society

Did you know that any member of the IBS may raise an issue or appeal a decision of the governing Board of Directors by placing a matter before the Governing Board of Directors for discussion?

If there is a matter you would like discussed at the January 2011 Board meeting, write to the society's Secretary (check current list of officers at <http://www.biogeography.org/html/About%20IBS/officers.html>).

from the society

News from the January IBS meeting in Crete

The 5th Biennial Meeting of the International Biogeography Society is now less than one year away. The meeting will be held in Irakleion, Crete, on the finally agreed dates of 7-11 January, 2011.

The meeting will be built around four successive symposia (8-9 January) on established key and new cutting-edge topics and approaches in biogeography and macroecology, each with a suite of leading international scientists as well as openings for contributed papers:

(1) Mediterranean Biogeography: Where History Meets Ecology Across Scales, organized by Spyros Sfenthourakis and Remy J. Petit

The Mediterranean is a highly species-rich and complex biogeographic region. It has a composite tectonic history, has experienced the impacts of human civilization for more than 8 millennia, hosts numerous islands, and exhibits remarkable topographic diversity. This symposium explores novel perspectives on Mediterranean biogeography across spatial and temporal scales.

(2) New Perspectives on Comparative Phylogeography – Novel Integrative Approaches and Challenges, organized by Ana Carnaval and Mike Hickerson

The boundaries of classic comparative phylogeography are expanding by increasing connections with new and emerging fields such as genomics, spatial information systems, climate modeling, community-scale DNA barcoding, host-parasite interactions etc. This symposium will explore innovative, integrative studies in the field, while discussing novel methodologies to circumvent current and foreseen challenges.

(3) Biogeography and Ecology: Two Lenses in One Telescope, organized by Dave Jenkins and Bob Ricklefs

Biogeography views nature through a large-scale lens, while ecology views nature through a lens built from local-scale evidence. Yet both disciplines focus on processes causing natural patterns and are approaching each other at intermediate spatial and temporal scales. The symposium brings together biogeographers and ecologists to

discuss the shared key subjects: niche, comparative/macro-ecology, community assembly, and diversity. Different and shared conceptual domains will be addressed within and among eight talks (two per subject), plus a synthesis.

(4) Analytical Advancements in Macroecology and Biogeography, organized by Alexandre Diniz-Filho and Carsten Rahbek

The continuous development of computing capacity and increasing data generation allow ever more sophisticated analyses, enabling novel insights about biodiversity patterns. This development depends upon continuous input from other fields in terms of methods and theory. This symposium presents the new advancements within spatial analyses, phylogenetic reconstruction, and computer simulation modeling.

In addition to the four symposia with invited speakers, on January 10th the meeting will have six sessions of contributed papers on core topics in biogeography: (i) Island biogeography, (ii) Climate change biogeography, (iii) Conservation biogeography, (iv) Palaeoecology, (v) Marine biogeography, and (vi) Hot topics in Biogeography.

On the days just before and after the conference (7 and 11 January), there will be field excursions to a number of Crete's most exciting locations, historically and biologically (and biogeographically). In addition, on January 7th, a series of workshops will be held, covering spatial analysis in macroecology, phylogenetic analysis in macro-ecology, and communicating biogeography.

The registration for the meeting will open in June 2010. For more updated information, please check <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2011/index.html>.

Jens-Christian Svenning
V. P. for Conferences

Spyros Sfenthourakis
Local Organizing Committee of the 2011 IBS
meeting

Did you know that any member who has retired and who has twenty years of continuous membership in IBS shall be eligible for Emeritus membership?