

**John Miller Lawrence**  
**Professor Emeritus, University of South Florida**

**Biographical Sketch**

John Miller Lawrence grew up in the rolling hills of Missouri. As a young college student, John attended Southeast Missouri State College and went on to complete his MS degree in zoology at the University of Missouri. Interested in invertebrate physiological ecology, he was drawn to the rocky coastlines of central California to pursue his PhD in the laboratory of Professor Arthur C. Giese at Stanford University. His graduate studies resulted in a ground-breaking publication on the role of the gut as a nutrient-storage organ in the purple sea urchin; this seminal paper was complemented by five additional related publications. Remarkably, his second and third publications as a graduate student appeared in *Science* and *Nature*, respectively, a most impressive beginning to a career distinguished by major contributions in the field of echinoderm biology. To date, John's accomplishments include 11 authored or edited books, approximately 200 scholarly publications, and a similar number of research presentations. As a gifted teacher and mentor, many of his graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have gone on to develop outstanding careers in their own right.



John Lawrence, 1983, on the Subantarctic Îles Kerguelen, Southern Indian Ocean, while conducting studies on echinoderm reproduction in 1983.

(Photo by James McClintock)

During his 42 years on the faculty of the University of South Florida, John Lawrence developed a vast network of collaborative research relationships and lifetime friendships with echinoderm biologists throughout both Northern and Southern Hemispheres. These collaborations led him to research activities spanning an impressive geographical portfolio, including Eniwetok Atoll, Israel, Panama, Barbados, Kerguelen, France, British Columbia, China, Australia, New Zealand, Curaçao, Chile, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

John Lawrence has attained heights few can boast in journalistic editorial service. He served as associate editor of *Marine Biology* for 16 years (1976–1992) and as a senior advisor for *Marine Ecology Progress Series* for 28 years (1979 to present). He has served on the editorial boards of *Zoological Science* (Japan), *Biologiya Morya* (Russia), and *Cahiers de Biologie Marine* (France). He also wrote and edited the *Echinoderm Newsletter*, published by the Smithsonian Institution (1981–1992). Often serving as the catalyst for bringing together echinoderm researchers around the world, John has played a significant role as the organizer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Echinoderm Conference (Florida, 1981) and a co-organizer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium on Echinoderms (Italy, 1991), the Friends of Echinoderms Meeting (Florida, 1992), the 5<sup>th</sup> Florida Echinoderm Festival (Florida, 1999), and the International Conference on Sea Urchin Fisheries and Aquaculture (Chile, 2003).

John Miller Lawrence is the quintessential echinoderm biologist. His infectious love for seeking answers to intriguing puzzles of echinoderm form and function, physiology, ecology, and evolution has sparked the interests of countless students, research colleagues, and even those whose interests lie more in the liberal arts. All will benefit from his inspiration for many years to come, as certainly will future generations of echinodermologists.