Research Statement, John Mackiewicz

My primary research interests continue to be on the morphology, systematics, zoogeography, host-parasite relationships, biology and evolution of the Caryophyllidea, intestinal non-segmented cestode parasites of freshwater fish.

Since retirement (2002), special attention has been directed at the evolutionary relationships of the Caryophyllidea within the Eucestoda. To that end, attempts have been made to clarify the terminology of cestode body types.

I am in collaboration with colleagues who are studying caryophyllidean development and scolex morphology, evolutionary significance of spermatogenesis and vitellogenesis, and the possible evolutionary value of morphology at the ultrastructural level of Archigetes and of other lower tapeworms. Still other work involves assistance with a cladistic analysis of the phylogenetic relationships at the generic level within the group and with a cytological study of a species of Wenyonia. A checklist and synoptic taxonomic review of all species in the group is in progress (1/06).

(Professor Mackiewicz retired in 2002 after 40 years with the Department; he will be teaching part-time for the next few years.)