

George C. Eickwort Student Research Award

This award is given in memory of George Eickwort and is designed to recognize exceptional research by students in the field of social insect biology. The award consists of a certificate, an honorarium, and a one-year subscription to *Insectes Sociaux*. This year's Award Committee consisted of Phil Starks, Ulrich Mueller, Bryan Danforth and myself (Kenna MacKenzie). Many thanks to the committee members, especially Phil, for their efforts.

General Statement

The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Timothy Linksvayer, PhD (2005), Indiana University** was selected as the recipient of this year's **Eickwort Student Award**. The Eickwort Student Award Committee received a number of excellent nominations, all worthy of recognition, but **Timothy** stood out above the others.

Timothy Linksvayer received a PhD, Evolution, Ecology and Behavior from Indiana University, where he was a student of Michael Wade. Timothy's interest is in social evolutionary theory, in particular, understanding how genetic architecture influences social insect phenotypes. Working with the acorn ant, *Temnothorax curvispinosus*, he was able to demonstrate direct and indirect (expression of genes in a nestmate) genetic effects on individual phenotypes, and developed a social evolution model that incorporates these indirect maternal and sib-social effects which was published in the Quarterly Review of Biology. Timothy's novel approach led one of his references to write "This new perspective on social evolution promises to fundamentally change the way that we view evolution in social insects." In true Eickwortian tradition, during his graduate work Timothy collaborated in a number of side-projects that have resulted in scientific publications and mentored several undergraduates while at Indiana University. Timothy is currently at Arizona State University in Tempe working with Rob Page and Bert Hölldobler where he has a NSF Post-Doctoral Fellowship in biological informatics. Timothy will be working with both ants and honey bees using quantitative genetic and sociogenomic approaches to develop models of social evolution. The Award Committee is very pleased to announce that Timothy Linksvayer is the recipient of the 2005 Eickwort Student Award.