

## **George C. Eickwort Student Research Award**

This award is given in memory of George Eickwort and is designed to recognize exceptional research and scholarly activity 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 Selection Committee consisted of Ulrich Mueller, Anna Dornhaus, Phil Starks, Andy Suarez, Heather Mattila and myself (Kenna MacKenzie).

### **General Statement**

This year, again, an exceptional group of individuals were nominated for the Eickwort Student Award with any one of them worthy of the recognition for their record in social insect research.

The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Sandra Rehan of Brock University in Ontario, Canada** was selected as the recipient of the **2011 Eickwort Student Award**. While Sandra's research has advanced our understanding of the evolution of social behaviour in insects, she is also recognized for her scientific productivity, commitment to teaching and active service to academia and her university.

**Sandra Rehan** was a student of Miriam Richards of Brock University, and during her PhD studies spent three years as a Visiting Scientist in the laboratory of Michael Schwarz of Flinders University of South Australia in Adelaide. For her graduate research, Sandra focused on studying social evolution in the ceratinine bees. Not only did she carry out a major molecular phylogenetic analysis of the biogeographic origins of the genus *Ceratina*, she also observed social behaviour of several previously unknown or little-known *Ceratina* species and identified this genus as an important new model organism for studying social evolution. She did this by integrating diverse approaches including behavioural and ecological experimentation, taxonomy, molecular phylogenetics and relatedness research. Sandra is a very productive young scientist, already publishing 13 papers (8 as first author). She has received numerous awards including National Science and Engineering Council of Canada Undergraduate, Graduate and Post-Graduate Scholarships and an Endeavour Fellowship for collaborative research in Australia. One of her references described Sandra as follows "The energy and depth that she has brought to her research stands out as an inspirational example of how studies of social insects can be put into the forefront of evolutionary biology" and "...shown just how George Eickwort's legacy can be taken into the 21<sup>st</sup> century". Sandra continues her social-insect research in a post-doctoral position in the lab of Tim Linksvayer at the University of Pennsylvania, working on colony-level gene expression and social networks. The Award Committee is very pleased to announce that Sandra Rehan is the recipient of the 2011 Eickwort Student Award.