



NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:
The Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant
Due April 20, 2016**

Purpose: The Tschinkel Fund was set up by Walter and Victoria Tschinkel to encourage graduate student research into basic natural history and biology of ants (in the broad sense), areas that have often been neglected. The thinking behind this grant program can be found in two essays: Tschinkel WR and Wilson EO (2014) Scientific natural history: telling the epics of nature, *BioScience* 64:438-443; and Tschinkel WR (2010) Back to basics: sociometry and sociogenesis of ant societies (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Myrmecol. News* 14:49-54.

Nature: The recipient of the award will be announced by May 20, 2016 and will receive a research grant of up to \$2,500. Please note that this grant is to be given to an individual researcher and no overhead will be allowed.

Eligibility: Any current graduate student who is a member of NAS/IUSSI conducting research on ant biology is eligible. Contact the Secretary/Treasurer (iussi.nas@gmail.com) or visit the website (<http://iussi.cyberbee.net/member/>) for membership information.

Applications: Proposals are due April 20, 2016. Late proposals will not be considered. Parts 1-6 of the application should be sent as a single PDF file, in the format described below, to Stephen Pratt (Stephen.Pratt@asu.edu), Chair of the NAS/IUSSI Awards Committee. Parts 1-4 combined must be no longer than four single spaced pages with a 12 pt font.

1) TITLE.

2) SIGNIFICANCE. Applicants should include the novel aspects of the proposed research, expected contribution(s) to the understanding of ant natural history (in the large sense), and relation to previous work. Proposals should include a clearly stated goal, study species (or multiple species), and research methods. Taxonomic projects will be considered only if the goal is the elucidation of some aspect of ant natural history. Projects may ask questions such as: What do the ants do? Where and how do they do it? Why do they do it, and What are consequences for their life history, ecology or evolution? Experimental projects are encouraged, but observational projects will also be considered.

3) RESEARCH PLAN. Include the particular species to be studied, methods, logistics, and an approximate timetable. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate the feasibility of the project. The project may be the main dissertation topic or it may be ancillary or supplementary to it.

4) CITATIONS. Provide these in the format used by the Entomological Society of America.

5) BUDGET. Include projected costs and justification of items where appropriate. State if any other supporting funds are available (this can impact feasibility). Travel expenses are allowed but must be detailed.

6) CURRICULUM VITAE. The present position or years of graduate school, education, and publications must be included.

7) LETTER OF SUPPORT. This is to be written by the applicant's advisor to ensure that basic resources needed for the research will be available. This should be sent in a separate email directly from the advisor.

REPORT: A report will be required from the successful applicant. The preference will be for an oral report (~10 min) at the next annual meeting of the IUSI/NAS. If the awardee is not able to attend this meeting, a written report (1 page) must be submitted for publication in the society newsletter.