



The Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant supports graduate student research on the basic natural history and biology of ants. It is given annually to a student whose proposed research promises the best contribution to this often-neglected field of study. The winner of the 2018 Tschinkel Grant is **Maya Reese**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Maya is a member of the IUSSI and holds a Bachelor's degree Biology from Tuskegee University. She is currently a Ph. D. student and presidential fellow at the University of Houston, Texas, under the direction of Blaine Cole. Her Tschinkel Grant proposal is entitled "The ontogeny of collective personality." It was selected from a field of highly competitive applications, making the Awards Committee's work quite challenging. Her research is firmly rooted in a deep understanding of the natural history of her species of choice, *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis*. Her preliminary data, put into the context of the species' natural history, makes for well-reasoned and testable hypotheses. The development of personality is an understudied facet of animal behavior research, and Maya's work promises to shed light on the effects of colony experience and how the personality of others in a population affects a focal individual. In other words, the Awards Committee thought that the success of this proposal would help tell 'the epic of this species,' a goal of all natural history research.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Rebecca Clark, Christina Kwapich, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Juergen Liebig, Juliana Rangel, and Chris Smith