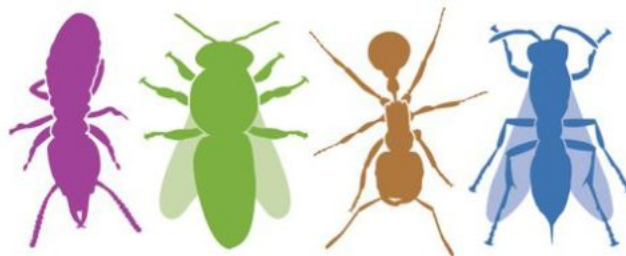


IUSSI-NAS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS, NORTH AMERICAN SECTION



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant Due April 1, 2020

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). *Myrmecological News* 14:49-54. Applicants are encouraged to read these papers for guidance.

Nature: The recipient will receive 1) a research grant of up to \$2,500 to be applied toward covering research expenses, and 2) a free membership to IUSSI-NAS in 2021. Please note that this grant is to be given to an individual researcher and no overhead will be allowed. The winner will be announced by April 14, 2020. Information on previous recipients can be found on the IUSSI-NAS website.

Eligibility: Any current graduate student who is a member of IUSSI-NAS conducting research on ant biology is eligible, so long as they have not yet completed their thesis work. Contact the Secretary (iussi.nas@gmail.com) or visit the website (<http://iussi.cyberbee.net/membershipx/>) for membership information.

Applications: Proposals are due April 1, 2020. Late proposals will not be considered. Parts 1-8 of the application should be sent as a single PDF file, in the format described below, to Christina Kwapich (christina_kwapich@uml.edu), Co-chair of the IUSSI-NAS 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

or phylogenetic projects are discouraged. Favored projects will be those that consider ants in their social modality, with colonies as functional/developing entities. Emphasis should be a "skin out" approach, including behavior. Questions that focus on metabolic/molecular levels 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? What are consequences for the 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, analyses, and logistics. The project may be the main dissertation topic or it may be ancillary or supplementary to it.

4) FEASIBILITY. Provide sufficient information to demonstrate the project's feasibility, including an approximate timetable.

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

6) 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.

7) CURRICULUM VITAE. Include present position and start date. The CV will only be used to determine if students have enough time to complete the proposed project. The merit of past achievements and other activities will not be evaluated.

8) LETTER OF SUPPORT. This is to be written by the applicant's advisor. The purpose of the letter is only to ensure that adequate support and basic resources exist to complete the project.

Report: A condition of the grant is that the recipient make a report on the results of their research. Ideally, this will be a 10-minute oral report at the next annual meeting of the IUSSI-NAS. If the recipient is not able to attend this meeting, a 1-page written report must be submitted for publication in the society newsletter.