



The George C. Eickwort Student Research Award recognizes a graduate student for distinguished research and scholarly activity 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 the Awards Committee reviewed a very strong group of nominees with impressive research and publication records. Those who were not successful this year are encouraged to re-apply next year if still eligible.

The winner of the 2021 George C. Eickwort Student Research Award is **Madeleine Ostwald**.

Maddie received her B.S. from Cornell University in Biological Sciences. She then pursued a M.Sc from University of Edinburgh in Renaissance & Early Modern Studies. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D at Arizona State University under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Fewell. Maddie's research examines the interface between social biology and ecological context to address the proximate changes and ecological conditions that enable an organism that was previously solitary to become social. Her main project explores the social behavioral ecology of carpenter bees across seasons, ecological contexts and the proximate factors that may mediate these transitions. To do so, she has developed innovative methods, utilizing CT scans of nesting sites, thermal probes and flow-through respirometry.

The awards committee wishes to recognize her persuasive and creative proposal, as well as Maddie's excellent publication record and outreach activities. We are proud to have Maddie as a representative of the excellent research being produced by student members of the Society.

Sincerely,

The Awards Committee:

Sarah Bengston, Kaitlin Baudier (Co-Chairs)

Rachelle Adams, Floria Mora-Kepfer Uy, Olav Rueppell, Qian Sun