



## IUSSI - North American Section

The Charles Michener Bee Research Grant supports graduate student research on the basic biology of bees, defined broadly as the Anthophila. The award is given annually to an IUSSI-NAS graduate student member whose research has the greatest potential to make a substantive contribution to our understanding of the biology of this fascinating group.

The 2023 winner of the Michener Grant is **Kristin Robinson**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Kristin received her Bachelor's Degree in Ecology, Evolution & Behavior from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and she is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Southern Mississippi under the direction of Kaitlin Baudier. The title of Kristin's project is "The interplay of division of labor and desiccation tolerance in a stingless bee". She proposes to address how worker subcastes within colonies are differently adapted to desiccation stress, in the stingless bee *Tetragonisca angustula*. Kristin has located enough *T. angustula* nests and developed a preliminary set-up for testing desiccation tolerance. The Awards Committee wishes to recognize her extensive work in the field and laboratory to develop a persuasive and well-reasoned proposal. The success of this project will provide findings that better informs our understanding of climate effects on eusocial insects and potential conservation strategies.

### **IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee**

Qian "Karen" Sun, Olav Rueppell (co-chairs)

Matina Donaldson-Matasci, Etya Amsalem, Elizabeth Tibbetts, Joshua King