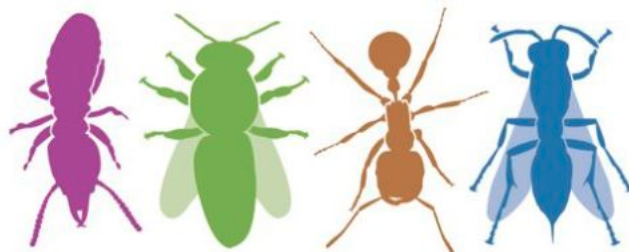


IUSSI-NAS

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



The **Tschinkel Ant Natural History Research Grant** supports graduate student research on the basic natural history and biology of ants (in the broad sense). It is given annually to a student whose proposed research promises the best contribution to this often neglected field of study.

The 2024 winner of the Tschinkel Grant is **Karen Robles López**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Karen is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Southern Mississippi under the direction of Dr. Kaitlin Baudier. The title of Karen's project is "Are we colleagues? Exploring non predation relationship between *Eciton burchellii parvispinus* and *Azteca velox*". In this project, Karen proposes to study a newly observed interaction between army ants and non-Dorylinae ants, which was first documented in her 2024 paper in *Biotropica*: "One ant's trash is another ant's treasure: Army ant middens provide resources for diverse ant assemblages". While the tremendous impacts of army ant predation on tropical forest ecosystems are well established, their role as resource providers for other ant species is as yet unexplored. The Awards Committee wishes to recognize Karen's compelling proposal, whose effort to uncover the sensory biology and behavioral ecology behind these newly described interactions exemplifies the spirit of the Tschinkel Grant.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Matina Donaldson-Matasci, Etya Amsalem (co-chairs)

Elizabeth Tibbetts, Joshua King, Scott Powell, Natalie Lemanski (committee members)