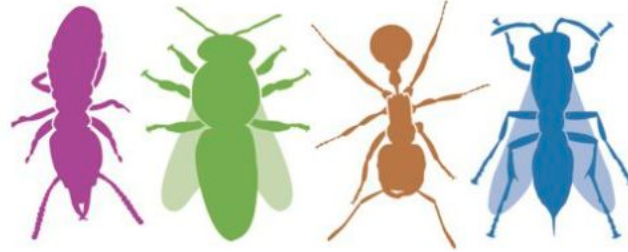


IUSSI-NAS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS, 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 2025 winner of the Michener Grant is **Kathryn Naherny**, who will receive a \$2,500 grant to support her research. Kathryn is currently a Ph.D. student at University of Colorado under the direction of Dr. Samuel Ramsey. The title of Kathryn's project is "Untangling the Microcosm of a Stingless Bee Nest: Using Host Traits to Understand the Interplay of Melittophiles and Peruvian Stingless Bees". Many aspects of managed stingless bee husbandry are well understood, but the community of organisms found in stingless bee nests ("melittophiles") remains largely unknown. Kathryn proposes to fill this gap via analysis of melittophiles in a broad range of managed and wild stingless bee hives across Peru. The success of this project will provide information about an understudied topic in stingless bee biology as well as an opportunity to improve stingless bee management. The Awards Committee wishes to recognize Kathryn's compelling proposal, whose novelty and potential impact make it an excellent fit for the Michener Grant.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Elizabeth Tibbetts, Joshua King (co-chairs)

Scott Powell, Natalie Lemanski, Mallory Hagadorn, and Alex Payne (committee members)