

Proposer or designated leader of a student group

Name Andrew Nisip

Academic classification Junior (Undergraduate)

Department Entomology and Nematology

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Experience or training related to proposed project

• Insect Husbandry:

-Captive rearing experience (10 years) with numerous species of insects (~75 spp.)

-Currently head ant keeper in Dr. Andrea Lucky's "Lucky Lab", rearing ~40 live and colonies and instructing others how to also raise ants.

• Ant Collection:

- Winkler leaf litter extractor, Lloyd Davis sifter, and aspirator

• Ant Identification:

-ID most FL ants with dichotomous key; also proficient with sight ID to Genus of numerous FL ant species

Sponsor

Name Dr. Andrea Lucky

Department Entomology and Nematology

UF e-mail address alucky@ufl.edu

Campus-mail address 1881 Natural Area Dr.

Phone number(s) --- 352-273-3952

Title of project "Recognizing the 20 Most Common Ant Species in NATL"

Project summary- The two goals of this project are to 1) compile an updated ant species list for NATL and through that updated list, 2) construct an interpretive poster or plaque to be placed in NATL that has information regarding the "Top 10 Ant encounters in NATL". My aim is to increase our knowledge about the ant species that live in NATL and increase public awareness of the most commonly encountered ants.

Starting date- Mid-Late February 2016.

Completion date- Mid-Late August (Must be no later than six months after starting date or prior to graduation if Spring 2016 is the student's final semester at UF.)

Description of project

I will be use various sampling methods in NATL that include but are not limited to: Winkler Leaf-Litter sifting, Lloyd Davis sampling, pitfall trapping, hand collection, baiting, UV trapping, aspirating, twig-snapping and nest excavation. After these procedures have been performed, I will analyze the results I obtained from each sampling method and then construct a "Top 10 most common ants in NATL" list. Some of the money will be used to purchase some of the collecting equipment, while some of it will go towards

fabricating and placing a “Top 10 Ants in NATL” poster/plaque that will serve to educate any users in NATL of the most common ants they are most likely to see while visiting/using NATL. Some common ants are most recognizable by their nest structures (for example, fire ants or pyramid ants), whereas other species have individual workers that are large and conspicuous. The poster will describe the various ants and structures most commonly seen in NATL and help people distinguish between native and non-native, stinging and non-stinging species.

Budget:

Blacklight: NO COST – available in the Entomology Dept for use in NATL

1 Leaf Litter sifter: NO COST – available in the Lucky Lab

3 Winkler leaf litter extractors: \$270

Pitfall traps x 50: \$75

2 Aspirators: \$30

Ethanol and storage vials: \$50

Signage: \$75

TOTAL: \$500

Provision for periodic communication with NAAC administration

I will provide an email update to my supervisor and the NAAC chair on a monthly basis. This will include a description of what I have accomplished in the past month and what I plan to do in the next month.

Timeline:

February: Blacklighting, hand collecting

March: Blacklighting, hand collecting, litter sifting

April: Blacklighting, hand collecting, pitfall trapping

May: Blacklighting, hand collecting, litter sifting

June: Blacklighting, hand collecting, pitfall trapping

July: Sampling completed. Analyze data and create poster in Powerpoint.

August: Print poster and install signage in NATL.