

UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN CARLOS
DE GUATEMALA



FACULTAD DE CC.QQ. Y FARMACIA
EDIFICIO T-12, Ciudad Universitaria, zona 12
Guatemala, Guatemala

Guatemala, 28 November 2011

IANAS Fellowship Committee,

I am writing this letter to inform that Carmen Lucía Yurrita Obiols is currently enrolled in the PhD program in Biological Science of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). As part of the collaboration agreement between this university and the University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC) she is performing her studies in Guatemala. At this moment Carmen Lucía is starting her third year in the program and she is already a doctorate candidate. She is also a member of the “Research Unit on Knowledge, Use and Valuation of the Biodiversity (Biodiversity Research Unit)” of the Center for Conservation Studies (CECON) of the Faculty of Sciences and Chemistry of the USAC.

The research that Carmen Lucía is developing as part of her PhD project aims, among other things, to elaborate a taxonomic revision of the stingless bees species of the genus *Melipona* that occur in the Mexican and Central American region. This work will reinforce the scientific collection “Native bees of Guatemala” at the “Biodiversity Research Unit”, by producing leading information on these culturally and economically important pollinators, in the region.


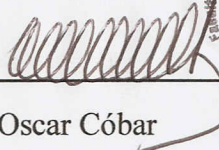
The National Pollinating Insects Collection at the USDA ARS Bee Biology & Systematics Laboratory at Utah University in Logan, is an internationally renowned bee resource institution that holds one of the largest collections of bees in the world. The stingless bee group is well represented and the collection makes up one of the biggest of the group in North America.

Bees are very important pollinators for crops and wild plants and to propose effective management practices it is necessary to know the species and name them correctly. One of the goals of the “Biodiversity Research Unit” is to improve the taxonomic knowledge of the bees of Guatemala.

Since the collection at the USDA ARS BeeLab is an important reference collection for bees the collaboration between the two institutions will enhance the quality and acuity of the taxonomic research done at the "Biodiversity Research Unit" by offering properly identified bee material that could be compared with the Guatemalan fauna, making it possible to identify it accurately.

As the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Chemistry of the San Carlos University of Guatemala, home institution of the applicant, I am pleased to support Ms. Yurrita scientific development which will reinforce the science capacity of the University itself and of the country.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Oscar Cobar
Dean

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