

Daniel Bennett- Summary

Dr. Daniel Bennett, Stephen F. Austin University, and John Pascarella researched Bees of the Big Thicket National Preserve (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Apoidea) . His original award was \$13,080 for his first proposal. He did not use all of his transportation funds and requested decreasing the original award by \$833. It was approved. Grant funds of \$12,247 were secured through TCEQ mitigation monies.

Due to Hurricane Harvey and the destruction of much of his equipment and damages to a bridge which limited access, ToD President, Mary C. Johnston, met with Dr. Bennett at the BTNP Visitor Center to discuss his situation. It was recommended that he go ahead and end his first project to close out the record keeping as extensive data had already been submitted, and it was most impressive. All receipts and reports were submitted as required and Bennett's first research project was closed.

It was recommended that a second proposal help replace lost equipment and fund continued data collection for his quality project. Bees of the Big Thicket National Preserve: Phase II was funded for \$13,056. It was also funded through TCEQ. In a report from 2017-2019 surveys, 127 species with 94 new to the preserve and 2 new to the state were documented.

In 2022 Bennett requested an Addendum from unspent funds for \$2570 to analyze bycatch. It was accepted. In 2025 it was noted that the transportation funds of \$1070 had still not been expended in the Addendum. The researcher agreed to go ahead and close out the grant.

In 2026 Mary C. Johnston, ToD Chair, and Intern Natalia Doiron reviewed records and data. Doiron communicated with the researcher about the submission of data. It was documented in an annual report that from June-September 2022 undergraduate Kathy Li sorted beetles from bulk samples and processed 1,356 specimens. This data is still pending, but since it is not apoidea the total species count on the Taxa Tally remains unchanged with 127 species and 9,190 specimens collected.

**Submitted by Mary C. Johnston, Chair of Thicket of Diversity, and Intern Natalia Doiron
March 26, 2026**