



IUSSI - North American Section

The Jeffery P. La Fage Student Award for Applied Research on Social Insects recognizes a graduate student for distinguished research and scholarly activity on social insects, with an emphasis on applied projects. The award consists of a plaque and an honorarium. The North American Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects is proud to announce that **Jayshree Patel, of the University of Florida**, is the recipient of the 2018 Jeffery P. La Fage Award.

Jayshree is now completing her Ph.D. research at UF under the direction of Nan-Yao Su. She holds two Master of Science degrees (New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Gujarat University) and received her Bachelor of Science from St. Xavier's College (Ahmedabad, India). Her doctoral work is focused on the control of hybrids between two highly destructive *Coptotermes* termite species. Hybridization between these species has the potential to make their impact more devastating; in this case, the temperature tolerance of the hybrids could allow them to occupy a range encompassing that of both parental species. Currently, Jayshree is assessing pesticide susceptibility of the hybrids in an effort to develop pest management strategies.

Her references describe her as “an excellent student” and “an outstanding graduate student”. The awards committee had rapid consensus that she was the most worthy winner for this year's LaFage award, and we are so pleased to have such a deserving student as a member of our society.

IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee

Rebecca Clark, Christina Kwapich, Hongmei Li-Byarlay, Jürgen Liebig, Juliana Rangel, and Chris R. Smith (Chair)