



IUSSI - North American Section

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:
Mary Jane West-Eberhard Best Paper Award
Due: April 22, 2026

Purpose: To honor the legacy of Mary Jane West-Eberhard, this award is presented for the best first author peer-reviewed research article published by a student (undergraduate or graduate level) in the areas of social behavior and/or evolution in social arthropods at any time in 2025.

Nature: The award shall consist of a certificate and a \$1000 honorarium. The award winner will be announced May 20, 2026. Information on previous awardees can be found on the IUSSI-NAS website.

Eligibility: The recipient must have been a student at the time the work was completed. The paper must have been published in 2025, and no more than two years after the recipient's degree completion. Previous award recipients are not eligible for a second award.

Nominations: Nominations may be made by any IUSSI-NAS member, either the student or by others familiar with the student's work. Parts 1-4 of the application should be sent as a single PDF file, in the format described below.

Each nomination should include:

- 1) A one-page nominating letter that describes the paper and its 1) potential impact, 2) merit, and 3) originality.
- 2) Optionally (not included in the one-page nomination letter) a *brief* statement addressing how recognizing this paper would contribute to diversifying the field of social insect science.
- 3) The contributions of all authors to the paper should be reported and will help the committee determine the merit of the research article. Contributor roles shall be listed according to the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) See: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0244611>. You are not required to use the software but should have a list similar to Fig. 4.
- 4) A list of at least three names of IUSSI-NAS experts in your field that can comment on the potential impact, merit, and originality of your paper. You can look at our [website](#) for contact information of IUSSI-NAS members in our directory. You may contact these members and notify them that you are listing them in your nomination. The award committee co-chair may reach out to one or more of these people.

- 5) Include the paper you wish to be evaluated. Nominations are restricted to one paper per person each year.
- 6) For self-nominations, a letter of support from the student's research mentor or other senior researcher should be included.
- 7) A signed statement from the student's advisor indicating that the work was part of the thesis or dissertation (this may be included with the letter of support or the nomination letter, as appropriate).

Nominations will be reviewed by the Awards Committee, unless a member has a conflict of interest. In these cases, we may seek an ad hoc reviewer.

All documents must be emailed to the IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee awards.nas.iussi@gmail.com. To receive full consideration, complete applications must be received by April 22, 2026.