

# Student Award now in its second year!

AN ANNUAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH ON DIVERSITY, TAXONOMY, AND UNDERAPPRECIATED QUALITIES OF INSECT PESTS

## Appreciation for the Natural History of Insect Pests

University of Florida SFRC • North Carolina State University, Biology • TREE Foundation, Sarasota, FL | [www.ambrosiasymbiosis.org](http://www.ambrosiasymbiosis.org)

**The purpose of the award:** The award serves to promote the study of unexplored aspects of **natural history of insect pests**. Due to their success in the competition with humans, these insect groups are often condemned as harmful, while their remarkable qualities and peculiarities remain unnoticed. For example, only a handful of species of bark and ambrosia beetles cause damage to humans, while most of the remaining 7,500 species are fascinating organisms, ranging from cute to bizarre, living extraordinary lifestyles, and barely known to humans. The same discrepancy holds for many other insect groups.

The main purpose of the award is to foster communication between fundamental and applied young entomologists, and increase their appreciation for each other's study organisms and research methods.



Like this bizarre *Cyclorhipidion spurlinum*, a newly discovered ambrosia beetle from New Guinea, many insects belong to groups called "pests", but the actual organisms are a source of wonder to an observant entomologist.

**The award: \$500** awarded annually to a single recipient. Sponsored by the TREE Foundation in Sarasota, FL.

**Who is eligible:** University students regardless of their geographic location (must be in student status at the time of submission of the competing manuscript)

**Due date:** Applications are due each year on December 31st

**Selection criteria and conditions:** The selection committee will award \$500 to the student who in the given year publishes the most interesting and inspiring research paper on insects which are usually regarded as pests. There are three conditions for consideration:

- 1) the work may address any aspect of insect pest systematics, diversity, ecology, and other areas, but its main focus **must not be** consequences of such species to humans or **pest management**.
- 2) the study must be at least "in print" in a **scientific peer-reviewed** journal by the annual deadline of the award,
- 3) the awardee **must be a student** at the time of the application submission.

The award is supported by the TREE Foundation in Sarasota, FL, and conferred by the Ambrosia Symbiosis Research Group (Jiri Hulcr and Andrea Lucky at University of Florida, Rob Dunn at North Carolina State University, and Anthony I. Cognato at Michigan State University).

**How to apply:** Please send a brief e-mail to [hulcr@ufl.edu](mailto:hulcr@ufl.edu) containing 1) a few words about yourself, 2) a contact information of a faculty or a university official who can confirm your student status, 3) a one-sentence summary of your discovery, and 4) the competing publication as an attachment. There are no forms to fill out.

Please send any further inquiries to [hulcr@ufl.edu](mailto:hulcr@ufl.edu)