

2020 CCUBC Undergraduate Paper Award

Jaime M. Chalissery

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.



[Ants sense, and follow, trail pheromones of ant community members \(PDF\)](#)

[Jaime Chalissery Nominaiton Letter \(PDF\)](#)

[Dr. Gerhard Gries letter of Support for Jaime Chalissery\(PDF\)](#)

Jaime M. Chalissery completed his Bachelors of Science at Simon Fraser University, BC in 2018, focusing on Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation in Biological Sciences. Jaime's undergraduate research led to various opportunities, but kept bringing him back to Dr. Gerhard Gries' lab and studying animal communication. Jaime worked with European fire ants, *Myrmica rubra*, trying to understand they're pheromone communication and diet preferences, but branched out with a side project to explore how *M. rubra* as well as two other common BC ant species (*Camponotus modoc* and *Lasius niger*) respond to both con- and heterospecific trail pheromones, via antennal recognition and behavioural trail following experiments. This culmination of a substantial data set has led to publication of "Ants sense, and follow, trail pheromones of ant community members" as the cover story in "Insects" that explores how these ants potentially eavesdrop on other species communication methods! Jaime's love for entomology and research has only grown as he joined Dr. Gries' lab at Simon Fraser University as a Masters of Pest Management student. Jaime continues to research the pheromone communication and diet preference of *M. rubra*, but has expanded his research topics, with various extra projects and collaborations, to include a wider variety of ants and continue to explore their interactions with each other.

