DARAPUREDDY NAGA SAI SATYA SWAROOPA
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
ACHARYA N.G. RANGA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY,
BAPATLA, ANDHRA PRADESH

Darapureddy Naga Sai Satya Swaroopa is currently pursuing Ph.D. in Entomology at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh. She is working under the supervision of Dr. T. Madhumathi, Professor of Entomology, on "Studies on the behavioral ecology and management of the cigarette beetle *Lasioderma serricorne* (F.) (Coleoptera: Anobiidae).She is conducting an extensive survey on the incidence and host range of the cigarette beetle from different geographical locations to explore the molecular basis of diversity. Furthermore, she is investigating the growth, development, ovipositional preference, and damage parameters on different hosts. The main emphasis is given to the isolation and identification of the potent kairomones in the potentially attractive hosts. She is also concentrating on the management of *L. serricorne* on turmeric and other hosts with selected botanicals, minerals, microwave radiation, and hermetic storage. She worked on "Insect species diversity and the evaluation of insecticidal spray requirements in soybean" under the guidance of Dr. D. G. More, Assistant Professor at Vasantrao Naik Marthwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Latur. She recorded insects from 8 orders, spiders, and millipedes, and standardized insecticidal sprays to manage the insect pests of soybean for optimum yield. Swaroopa graduated from the Agriculture College, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Bapatla. Swaroopa is interested in exploring various molecular tools and techniques for insect pest management in the future

ARAVINTHRAJU K
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY,
COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU

Aravinthraju K is pursuing a PhD in Entomology at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He is working under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Shanthi, Director, Centre for Plant Protection Studies, TNAU. Recently, he was selected for the 'Golden Jubilee Scholarship Program' by the World Vegetable Centre in Taiwan. He will conduct his dissertation research collaboratively in Taiwan for 12 months. Currently, he is working on "Assessing the direct and plant-mediated impacts of new fungal bio-control agents against tomato whitefly, Bemisia tabaci and onion thrips, Thrips tabaci". Aravinthraju graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu. His rationale for selecting Entomology as a career stem from his inspiration drawn from Dr. S. Arivudainambi, his undergraduate professor, who imparted to him a profound understanding of the subject. He was awarded a master's degree from Agricultural College and Research Institute, TNAU, Madurai. For his master's degree program, he worked on the "Management of Tea Mosquito Bug, *Helopeltis antonii* Signoret (Hemiptera: Miridae) on Guava, *Psidium guajava* L.". He recorded the peak incidence of the tea mosquito bug during December, January and February in different hosts like guava, neem, and moringa. In the future, he plans to carry over research in the applied aspects of entomology to benefit the farming community. He is also interested in getting involved in teaching.

SUBRATA GOSWAMI
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL ZOOLOGY
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

Subrata Goswami is currently pursuing a PhD at the Department of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology, BHU, Varanasi. He is a recipient of the DST-INSPIRE fellowship for a doctoral degree program by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Currently, he is working on the "Development of novel nanotechnology-based chemoecological approaches for pest management" under the supervision of Prof. M. Raghuraman, Professor of Entomology. He is characterizing the neurophysiological and behavioural response of selected lepidopteran pests to semiochemicals, followed by the identification and characterization of the nano matrix for the controlled delivery of the semiochemicals. The development of a controlled-release nano matrix for better spatiotemporal release of pheromones and using the sex pheromone with some other plant volatiles in tandem will provide a groundbreaking avenue for the management of noxious agricultural pests. Subrata completed his postgraduate studies at Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, under the mentorship of Dr. S.B. Das, Professor and Head. In collaboration with ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, he studied the gut bacterial microbiota of rice stem borers and their functional significance. He comparatively assessed the culturable gut microbiota among different species of stem borers (yellow, pink, and striped stem borers) collected from the same host plant and time based on 16S rDNA sequences. He found that the gut bacterial composition of the three stem borer species is markedly diverse. Moreover, all the isolated gut bacterial strains were capable of degrading Chlorpyrifos, Chlorantraniliprole, and Thiamethoxam in vitro. Subrata graduated from Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal and aspires to be in the field of academia and conduct translational research for the development of green alternatives for the management of agricultural pests. Specifically, he is interested in insect olfaction and is looking for international collaborations to further hone his research skills to cater to the needs of the nation.

NANG SENA MANPOONG
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, JORHAT, ASSAM

Nang Sena Manpoong is currently pursuing her doctoral degree from the Department of Entomology, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam under the brilliant counsel of her major advisor, Dr. Sahidur Rahman, Principal Scientist & Principal Investigator, ICAR-AINP on Agricultural Acarology, Department of Entomology, AAU, Jorhat. Since there is a dearth of substantial work on termite diversity in the Northeastern part of India (namely, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh), her research work is meant to fill up the research gaps which exist. The objective of her research work is to study the biodiversity of termites and to explore the role of their gut bacteria in plant biomass degradation. She believes that her research could introduce new research methods and lead to the discovery of novel microorganisms from the gut of termites that could degrade plant biomass. Hailing from the picturesque state of Arunachal Pradesh, where insects not only form a part of the local fauna but also carry a great significance in local cuisines and traditional folklores, insects have always fascinated her. A firm believer of perseverance, a keen sense of observation and versatility, she credits her childhood experiences to moulding her future aims. She says "Being from Arunachal Pradesh where cultivation is done almost organically using traditional practices, I would like to integrate these traditional practices in today's advanced agricultural technologies especially in pest management, enhancing the potency of these practices while eliminating their obsolete aspects to develop a sustainable pest management strategy which is environmentally friendly, based on traditional knowledge and having the efficiency of today's modern technology, because I think the key to the solution of a problem lies in the problem itself and nature has bestowed us with an abundance of these solutions which needs to be identified, effectualized and amplified".

STUDENT CORNER

SOURAV SEN
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY
BIDHAN CHANDRA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA, WEST BENGAL

Sourav Sen, Ph.D. scholar from the Department of Entomology, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal, believes that as an agricultural researcher, it is his responsibility to bridge the gap between agricultural research and adoption by farmers. He received his Master's degree from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, under the guidance of Dr. Shimantini Borkataki, Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology, AAU, Jorhat. During his master's, he worked on the "Brood rearing and foraging activity of the stingless bee, *Tetragonula iridipennis* in cucumber under protected conditions." Conclusively, his research work found that the stingless bee was an effective pollinator of cucumber under protected conditions. His current work is primarily concentrated on the field of biological control, which includes some toxicological aspects related to egg parasitoids of the yellow stem borer. His study mainly comprises the diversity, seasonal occurrence, and insecticide compatibility of hymenopteran egg parasitoids (*Trichogramma* sp. and *Telenomus* sp.) of the rice yellow stem borer (*Scirpophaga incertulas*) in East Burdwan district, West Bengal, India. Rice is a staple food in India, and the yellow stem borer is its most dominant and destructive pest. Studying the potentiality of egg parasitoids for managing the yellow stem borer pest in insecticide-treated fields will help assess the possibility of egg parasitoid utilization and insecticide application in integrated pest management systems. Additionally, his study will elucidate the proper timing for the biological control of the mentioned pest based on the seasonal occurrence of the egg parasitoids. Under the skillful guidance and expertise of Dr. Lakshman Chandra Patel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology, BCKV, Sourav will be working on the multiplication mechanism of some critical egg parasitoids that are not yet properly reared under laboratory conditions. He will be trying to release them successfully under field conditions to control a wide group of pests. He cleared ICAR-AIEEA (PG) in 2019, ICAR-AICE (Ph.D.) in 2021, and ASRB NET in 2021.

Mr Naveen., Miss Nandhini D, and Miss K Sindhura Bhairavi, Student Associate Editor of IE Compiled the informationfor this section.