

# IBIOL EXTERNAL SEMINAR



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ROOM B103



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## **Can We Understand an Insect Society?**

Many species of insects, such as ants, bees, wasps and termites, organize themselves into societies, resembling, and in some ways surpassing, human societies. Can we as humans understand these insect societies? My students and I have attempted to interrogate one such insect society, the Indian paper wasp *Ropalidia marginata*. Here, I will describe our observational and experimental methods and our results and let the audience decide whether we have gained any significant understanding of the workings of this remarkable insect society.