

SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES AS WOOD ENEMY: IN GENERAL

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ABSTRACT

This study will discuss about pest which is termites that we know as one of the enemy to wood and wood based product. This study also is to as much information about the termites that always attack in Malaysia and also the prevention of the termite problems. This is not just saving money but also help in wood industry from being effect with this problem.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The termites are a group of social insects usually classified at the taxonomic rank of order *Isoptera*. As truly social animals, they are termed *eusocial* along with the ants and some bees and wasps which are all placed in the separate order *Hymenoptera*. Termites mostly feed on dead plant material, generally in the form of wood, leaf litter, soil, or animal dung, and about 10% of the estimated 4,000 species (about 2,600 taxonomically known) are economically significant as pests that can cause serious structural damage to buildings, crops or plantation forests.

A typical colony contains nymphs (semi-mature young), workers, soldiers, and reproductive individuals of both genders, sometimes containing several egg-laying queens. Termites are wood-eating, social insects. They evolved about 250 million years ago. There are more than 2,000 species of termites. Only about 70 species are frequent enough invaders of humans' wooden structures to be called pests. The most damaging are roughly 20 species we call "subterranean " termites because of their nesting and foraging habits. Two of these, the Eastern Subterranean Termites and the Western Subterranean Termites, are by far the most common, widest distributed and most damaging in Malaysia. (en.wikipedia.org:2009)