

**CENTRE OF STUDIES FOR BUILDING SURVEYING  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND SURVEYING  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**TERMITE INFESTATION ON TIMBER STRUCTURE OF  
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING**

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**“I hereby declare that this academic project is the result of my own research  
except for the quotation and summary which have been acknowledged”**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Termite is an insect that eats wood and damaged houses, walls, columns, floorings, furniture and books. Termites are capable of efficiently digesting cellulose, the major component in wood. This singular ability enables termites to play important ecological roles and makes them major structural pests worldwide.

Termite can eat timber without been notice. They can hide in the building without any sign that can find. But the occupant usually take easy regarding the termite matter, they not aware about what damages that can be done by a termite colonies. They survive by eating the wood in the building, if the foundation of the building is timber material, its can make the building collapse.

A few method was conducted to achieve the objective, site analysis and site observation was carried out to determine the factor that influence the termite infestation and to identify the presence of termite infestation in timber structure. The questionnaire was distributed to 30 homeowner to investigate the level of awareness, of homeowner towards termite infestation in timber building structure. As additional input, interview session with termite's specialist, En. Iswade Md Adib from URC GLOBAL CARE SDN. BHD.

There are few factor can consume to termite infestation such as temperature and humidity of building, timber moisture content, the surrounding or adjacent area of the building. The homeowner is lack of knowledge or information about termite infestation. Their level of awareness regarding the termite infestation is quite low. Even though they have been experience this problem.

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. STUDY BACKGROUND**

In a tropical climate like Malaysia, termites are very common problem. Every year, the cost to repair the damage can cause a thousand ringgit. Termite is an insect that eats wood and damaged houses, walls, columns, floorings, furniture and books. (Vail, William and Yanes)

According to Raven, Berg & Hassenzuhl (2012), termite is a detritivores, or detritus feeders. The termites survive by eating the dead plant and tree and also the wood in the soil. These termites can destroy the wood. These capabilities can cause disaster in human homes, while termites workers only small in size but their eating habits can cause damage to the good, is quite expensive if the collected amount. Foundations of houses, furniture, shelves and books all possible sites for feeding termites.

Subterranean termite usually formed inside soil. They will build a tunnel underground, from their nest which is outside until the nearest building. The reason they build the tunnel is to collect the food-sources from the nearest building. For the drywood termites can live in the timber, they can live and infest in the timber material such as wall and furniture.