ABUNDANCE OF TERMITES IN EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS AT LAL SOHARA AND KARACHI

*Note by Ashiq Ahmad and M. Ismail Chaudhry**

These observations were recorded in small experimental plots at Lal Sohara (Bahawalpur) and Karachi where natural resistance in six common timbers of Pakistan is being tested against termites.

In July 1974, five stakes each of *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Melia azedarach*, *Acacia arabica*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Pinus wallichiana* and *P. roxburghii*, size 30× 5× 5 cm were buried vertically in soil leaving a quarter of the stake above soil surface. While recordiing observations on their resistance during August, 1977, several termite colonies were found established in the wooden pieces used in the experiment. In the 100 m^3 area covered by each experiment in Lal Sohara and Karachi, 45 termite colonies were found inhabiting the wooden pieces, 21 colonies belonging to 3 species in Lal Sohara and 24 colonies comprising of 4 species in Karachi.

None of the termite species was restricted to single host species. *Heterotermes indicola* infested one wooden piece each of *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Acacia arabica* and two wooden pieces each of *Melia azedarach* and *Pinus roxburghii*; but, at the same time four pieces of *Daldergia sissoo*, two each of *Acacia arabica* and *Pinus roxburghii* and three wooden pieces of *Melia azedarach* were attacked by *Amitermes belli*.

Infestation by different termite species on single host was quite evident and interesting in the experimental plot at Karachi, particularly on the wooden pieces of *Acacia arabica*. Two stakes of this timber were inhabited by *Microtermes obesi* and one stake each by *Odontotermes obesus*, *Heterotermes indicola* and *Amitermes belli*. Similarly, 5 wooden pieces of *Dalbergia sissoo* attracted *Microtermes obesi*, *Amitermes belli* and *Odontotermes obesus* while *Melia azedarach* and *Pinus wallichiana* attracted *Microtermes obesi* and *Odontotermes obesus*.

* The authors are Assistant Entomologist & Forest Entomologist respectively at the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar.