

Biological Control of Termites

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Abstract—*Termites belong to the insect order Isoptera and are characterized by their colonial behavior. They have a special kind of symbiotic association with a protozoan in their guts which help them to convert cellulose present in the wood into the digestible substances. They can negatively impact human welfare by causing damage to unprotected timber structures, underground cables, earthen dams, irrigation ditches and farming equipment. Globally, the annual economic cost of termite damage and termite prevention is estimated in the billions. Due to all this, control measures have to be taken and they are classified into 4 types i.e. physical, chemical, bait and biological. Even though chemical methods proved to be efficient and easily available but they come with some major disadvantages. Over the years it has been found out that chemicals used for termite control are harmful for environment. They create various types of pollution and reduce soil fertility. In many cases the chemicals proved to be toxic to the organisms other than the target organism. Owing to these reasons the chemical methods are being replaced by the biological methods. Biological control can be defined as “the control of the damage caused by termites due to their destructive activity by the use of one or more organisms or with the product of a natural biological process.” Biological control agents are effective, environment friendly, economically viable, and socially acceptable method of termite control. The present review focuses on the various biological approaches that are in practice and can be commercialized for the control of termites.*