

PROFESSIONAL PEST CONTROL

TECHNICAL UPDATE

February 2004

Termidor Research Update



*For the past 20 years Scott Kleinschmidt has conducted research into termite biology & behaviour in both the field and laboratory. Scott was responsible for research throughout Australia, which laid a scientifically sound platform for the registration of **Termidor**.*

As BASF Product

Specialist, Scott will lead the Pest Control team in becoming a major player in the professional pest control market in Australia.

I was extremely nervous when I treated my first trial house with Termidor in October 2001 at Townsville. It wasn't a lack of faith in the product; in fact it was my total faith in **Termidor** that ended a safe and cosy 20-year career conducting termite research with the Queensland Government when I joined Aventis. It was not a lack of faith, it was more that I was now playing with someone's home plus the fact that the infestation of the voracious *Mastotermes darwiniensis* was so huge. Not helping were the comments by the very experienced pest controller doing the treatment still ringing in my ears - "It's not going to work...you can't just put this in the ground and expect an infestation of this size to disappear!" Well, it did and

has remained free of termite attack for just over 2 years. The full story follows:

As mentioned already, the infestation of Masto was very large and very active. The entire rear of the house was virtually throbbing with termite activity. Every wall stud was a freeway and every void in between a housing estate. There was a sub-nest located above the toilet.



Using a moisture meter I located 23 points of high moisture content and marked them with numbered stickers. Likewise using a Termatrac I located and marked 76 points of extreme activity throughout the house. I used numbered stickers so that I could go back to exactly the same sites to measure any effect after treatment.

© = Registered trademark of BASF.

BASF

On the 9th of October 2001, Termidor at the label rate was applied around the building to the soil only. There were no internal spot treatments done (Arsenic etc), so that any effect could be directly attributable to the Termidor treatment.

The house was inspected 4 weeks after treatment using the Termatrac and moisture meter in exactly the same locations as before treatment.

The results were spectacular.

The 23 moisture content readings had dropped from an average of 19.0% before treatment to 16.4% and the 76 positive Termatrac readings evident prior to treatment had basically fallen to 0.



Picture: Dead termites above toilet

There were some very slight Termatrac readings in a few locations and upon investigation these turned out to be the coffin fly which invades the galleries after there has been a massive killing of termites (I have

witnessed this on previous test sites).

The nest above the toilet was opened carefully at first and as it became apparent that there was no activity present, the entire structure was examined and only dead termites discovered. A testament to **Termidor's** unique "Transfer Effect™"

The house has had 5 subsequent inspections with the latest on December 16, 2003. On all occasions no termite activity could be found and moisture contents were normal (12-14%).

The "Transfer Effect™"

Termidor kills termites through contact and ingestion. Because **Termidor** is non-repellent, termites unknowingly ingest the product when they eat. Also, since termites can't detect **Termidor**, they go about their routine activities. So even if termites are not feeding, **Termidor** will still kill via contact.

Thanks to **Termidor's** unique "Transfer Effect", termites don't even need to come into contact with **Termidor** -treated soil to die. Termites that do come into direct contact with **Termidor** subsequently pick up the product on their bodies and serve as carriers who then transfer **Termidor** to other termites. These secondarily affected termites can also pass **Termidor** on through feeding or contact.

Termites are social insects, feeding and grooming each other in large, close-knit colonies – an ideal scenario for the "Transfer Effect" and a key reason no other termiticide performs like **Termidor**.

Termidor controls termite populations faster than any other termiticide, especially bait/monitoring systems, but is relatively slow acting in individual termites. Therefore, termites have ample time to spread **Termidor** to their nest mates before dying. This is the beauty of **Termidor's** unique "Transfer Effect".

www.agro.basf.com.au

Product Information Hotline
Free Call 1 800 501 940

BASF Australia Limited
Norwest Business Park, 7 Maitland Place,
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

© = Registered trademark of BASF.



TERMIDOR®

IF YOU'RE NOT ASKING FOR
TERMIDOR, YOU'RE ASKING
FOR TROUBLE.

BASF