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# COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Advisory Leaflet No. 35

## TERMITES

The termites commonly known as white ants are classified into several groups. Some of them are pests on coconut seedlings.

### Occurrence

Termites that cause damage to coconut seedlings are found in all coconut growing areas. However, they occur heavily in some areas only. These termites are soil inhabiting and may be found in abundance in clayey.

### Detection and nature of damage

The signs of damage by Termites could be visible in seedlings and in seed nuts. Wiltng and drying of the tender shoot are the signs of damage. If the tender shoot has dried completely. The seedling should be pulled out with the seednut and examined. If the seednut and the 'stem' are split open, a decay of the contents of the seednut and open wounds on the stem could be seen. Where the termites have entered. There may be incrustation of sand which is a characteristic feature of their damage.

### Control measures

#### 1. Ant hills

Although difficult, destruction and levelling down of ant hills, can effectively control the termites. There is a belief that by destroying the queen, all the termites in the ant hill could be destroyed. This is incorrect, since a new queen could be produced, in the event of the loss of the existing one. If the termite mounds cannot be levelled down, it is necessary to break open the top and pour about 15 litres (3 gals.) of Aldrin solution to control the termites. The Aldrin solution is prepared by adding 30 ml. (1 fl.oz) of Aldrin to 9 litres (2 gals) of water. Alternatively about 5 litres (about 1 gallon) of Chlordane solution made by diluting 30 ml (1 fl. oz) of Chlordane in 30 litres (6½ gals) of water.

## 2. Protection of transplanted seedlings.

- (a) Before planting, immerse the seednut of the seedling in one of the insecticidal solutions indicated at (1) above. So as to allow the husk of the seednut to absorb the insecticidal solution.
- (b) Treat the planting hole by pouring (you may use a watering can) about 5 litres (1 gal) of one of the undermentioned insecticidal solutions.

Aldrin solution made by diluting 30 ml (1 fl. oz) of Aldrin in 18 litres (4 gals.) of water.

Chlordane solution made by diluting 30 ml (1 fl. oz) of Chlordane in 30 litres (6½ gals) of water.

(1 fluid ounce = 3 table spoons approx.)

This treatment would protect the planting holes from termites for about one year. If necessary, this treatment could be repeated.

### Aldrin

This insecticide is marketed under several trade names.

“Aldrin 25% E.C.”	—	Chemical Industries Colombo (C.I.C.)
“Adrex 25”	—	Maharajah Organisation.
“Aldrex 25 E.D.”	—	Lankem (Ceylon) Ltd.

### Chlordane

This insecticide is also marketed under several trade names.

“Chlordane 45%”	—	Ceylon Petroleum Corporation
“Chlordane 45% E.C.”	—	Lankem (Ceylon) Ltd.
“Chlordox”	—	Maharajah Organisation.
“Harctos Chlordane”	—	Harrison & Crossfield Ltd.
“Intox 8”	—	A Baur & Co. Ltd.
“Octachlor”	—	Chemical Industries Colombo (C.I.C.)