

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE
CONTROL STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

Numerous chemicals have been evaluated as controls for subterranean termites since 1944 in the soil of southern Mississippi. From these studies have come the recommendations for the chemicals used today. The following are still giving 100 per cent control applied as water emulsions: 1 percent chlordane - 24 years; 0.5 per cent aldrin and dieldrin - 23 years; and 0.5 per cent heptachlor - 20 years. Many other chemicals studied gave control for varying periods of time but only a few as long as those recommended.

Similar studies were begun in 1965 at seven locations throughout the United States to evaluate the recommended chemicals in a variety of soils and climates against a variety of termites. Trends of results similar to those obtained in Mississippi seem to be occurring in most locations.

Insecticides other than cyclodienes are being evaluated for this purpose in laboratory and field studies. Dursban, a phosphate, at 1 and 2 per cent concentrations has given six years of control in field tests (modified ground-board studies) in Mississippi. One and two percent Baygon, a carbamate, is also giving 100 per cent control when it is protected from weathering.