

Social Behaviour In Termites

2004

June

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Thursday

Wk-23 155-211

08.00 Termites, commonly known
09.00 as white ants. They are the
well known social insects which
from definite colonies either
in the hollowed out wood or build
them from the masticated food.

Habit and Habitat:-

11.00 Termites live in
galleries bored in wood, dead trees,
12.00 structural timbers and roots of
grasses, vegetation and crop.

13.00 Termite colony is a maze of passages,
chambers, royal chambers, and
14.00 special cells for storing food or
cultivating fungus gardens.

Cast System:-

15.00 The colony consists of four castes

16.00 Small sterile workers which feed upon
the wood or fungus products and
17.00 regurgitation, feed the young and
other castes.

18.00 Sterile soldier caste with large head
and powerfully developed mandibles
for the defence of community. These
guard the nest entrances and
the royal pair.

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Appointments

(iii) A substitute reproductive caste including individuals that are sexually mature males and females but still in nymphal stages. If a king or queen dies, its place is taken over by one of these individuals. There are usually two types of these substitutes with well developed pads and very similar to the workers are the third form queens.

Macropterous forms or the first reproductive. Each colony consists of only one pair of male and female individuals which are known as the king and the queen or the royal pair.

Among the various members of the colony there exists a constant exchange of materials. Workers provide food to soldiers and the reproductive castes and in return obtain certain secretions from their mouth and anus. These secretions are said to inhibit the differentiation of nymph into reproductive members.