

those proposed by various chemical companies as suitable for social insect control, but a major restraint has been the availability of such experimental chemicals. In summary, a suitable bait substrate and delivery system has been developed, but as yet there is no commercially-available toxin to replace the currently-used organochlorine Mirex.

### **Results**

Plots have been established in uncleared areas and have been assessed every six weeks over the last two years.

#### ***Mastotermes darwiniensis***

Gunn Point 1-2 5m x 5m 192 stakes and 225 stakes

Gunn Point 3-7 1m x 1m 121 stakes

Wildman River 1-4 5m x 5m 121 stakes

There are also 4 *Coptotermes acinaciformis* Froggatt (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae) plots 1m x 1m 121 stakes at Gunn Point

Data collected from these plots is essential in assessing new control methods.

Laboratory and field experiments are in progress to gather information on the biology of the insect eg. colony size, distribution, foraging territory and behaviour. Such information forms the basis for assessment of the effectiveness of new control methods. For example, there have been claims that termites do not generally forage deeper than about 30cm, so that a vertical physical barrier will prevent attack. In an experiment to test this theory field studies showed that a barrier to more than twice that depth (70cm) may be passed.

Different bait substrates have been tested extensively in the laboratory and in field trials with promising results.

New chemicals have been tested over the past two years with some good results. Several of these are currently being tested more intensively in laboratory and field trials.

## **5.1.18 ASIAN VEGETABLE GROWER GROUP**

### **S Greenwell**

March 1997 saw the formation of the Asian Vegetable growers group. Two members were elected to represent the group at NTHA council meetings.

The group was formed essentially to coordinate the industry's development. Primary concerns of the group include:

- Pest and disease management
- Establishing export markets
- Establishing quarantine requirements for interstate transfer of produce
- Fire service complaints
- Local promotion of Asian vegetables