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The Status of Two Species of Subterranean Termites, *Coptotermes curvignathus* and *Coptotermes sepangensis* in Oil Palm

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An investigation was carried out to determine whether the subterranean termite, Coptotermes sepangensis is a pest of oil palm planted on organic soil. Termites found on the standing oil palm were collected, preserved in 70 per cent alcohol and identified to their species. These palms were observed for 12 months and then felled to check for the presence of termites and damage caused by them. It was confirmed that C. sepangensis was not a pest of oil palm. Its close relative, C. curvignathus, was confirmed infesting living palms, building nests and causing hollows in the trunk of oil palm.

Keywords: Subterranean termite, *Coptotermes sepangensis*, *Coptotermes curvignathus*.



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