

ELIMINATION OF FORAGING POPULATIONS OF *RETICULITERMES*
SANTONENSIS IN ONE STREET OF PARIS, FRANCE, USING
HEXAFLUMURON BAITS

J. L. CLÉMENT¹, M. JEQUEL², J. L. LECA², C. LOHOU³ & G. BURBAN³

¹Université de Marseille, Laboratoire de Neurobiologie CNRS - UPR 9024

²Dow Elanco Europe, Nice Sophia Antipolis

³Direction des parcs, jardins et espaces verts Mairie de Paris

Like many big cities in Europe, Paris is infested with termites of the genus *Reticulitermes*. More than half of the districts hold huge colonies in flats as well as in trees on the streets. In one area, the mark-release recapture method has given demographic data. Conventional poison barriers for subterranean termite control are impossible to use in such dense cities. Galleries of this species include many nesting structures or foraging sites interconnected by tunnels.

To control termite populations in one experimental street where trees were destroyed, near the Arc de Triomphe, we used monitoring devices placed near each tree. When termites were found within the monitoring station, the wood was replaced with a plastic tube containing the chitin inhibitor hexaflumuron mixed with a sawdust matrix. A self-recruiting procedure increased bait intake by termites. The efficiency of this technique against *Reticulitermes santonensis* was clearly demonstrated. Within one year, the population of termites in this street considerably decreased (about 95%). Because of the minimal amount of pesticide needed and because pesticides are not used in the absence of termites, this procedure is very well adapted to the control of termite populations in European cities.