

A study of bacteria from the digestive system of two advanced termites (Isoptera, Termitidae) in Nigeria

Author(s): OO Amund, OS Yakubu, SLO Malaka

Abstract

1. The total heterotrophic counts of bacteria present in the digestive system of *Macrotermes bellicosus* Smeathman and *Amitermes evuncifer* Silvestri were carried out. 2. The populations of bacteria in the guts of workers were generally higher than in those of soldiers. 3. A total of nineteen bacterial strains belonging to four main genera, namely *Cytophaga*, *Micrococcus*, *Bacillus* and *Sarcina* were isolated; six of these organisms were capable of producing cellulose-digesting enzymes. 4. The possible role of these cellulolytic bacteria in termite nutrition was discussed.

Keywords: Termites, Cellulose, Bacteria

Published : In 1986