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Termites beaten to a pulp, thanks to researchers

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KUANTAN: A group of researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) here has created an artificial bait from oil palm pulp which will help to get rid of termites.

The bait, which relies on natural resources, is environmentally friendly and effective to solve the termite woes faced by people. The termites belong to the Isoptera order.

Research team leader Abdul Syukur Abd Razak said the cost of producing the bait, known as Pisoptera, is low as it is made from thin layers of dried oil palm pulp.

Asked how the oil palm pulp would act as an artificial bait and kill the termites, Abdul Syukur said: "A Pisoptera will be placed on the route used by the termites. The termites will later carry the pulp to their colony."

"Once in the colony, the egg-laying queens will feed on the pulps and they will die. This will eventu-



Researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang showing the artificial bait made from dried oil palm pulp which they claim can help get rid of termites.

ally bring an halt to the egg-laying process.

Abdul Syukur said UMP spent nearly two years to carry out the research with the assistance of Syarikat Mega Juara Pest Control Sdn Bhd.

"For those who purchase Pisoptera, it will show results with-

in one and three months depending on the size of the house and encompassing land.

"The bait is also very convenient as it does not produce any smell which could cause inconvenience to household members," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Mega Juara Pest Control will be

the sole dealer to market the product which is sold for between RM600 and RM1,000 depending on the size of the house.

"This is far more economical compared with the cost of imported pesticide which is sold for between RM4,000 and RM6,000," added Abdul Syukur.