

## A New Species of Termite from the Nicobar Islands (Isoptera, Termitidae, Nasutitermitinae).

By  
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During a visit to the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, in August, 1964, I had an opportunity to study the termites collected during the "Galathea Expedition" (Royal Danish Corvette) from 1845 to 1847. In this collection I discovered a new species from the Nicobar Islands, which is described in this paper.

This study was carried out under National Science Foundation Grant No. GB-388. I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. S. L. Tuxen of the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, for providing excellent facilities for my work at the Museum.

This new species is named in honor of J. C. Fabricius, the famed Danish entomologist who advanced termite knowledge as long ago as 1775. The single type soldier of this new species has been deposited in the Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen.

### *Nasutitermes fabricii*, new species

**Imago:** Unknown.

**Soldier** (fig. 1): Head capsule light brownish yellow, rostrum light brown; antennae, pronotum, and legs pale yellowish. Head covered with a fairly dense coat of short, curved hairs and a few longer bristles, rostrum very hairy at tip; postmentum with a few bristles; pronotum with a few stiff bristles and hairs. Head pear-shaped; in profile dorsal margin convex, rostrum more depressed than rest of head; ventral contour of rostrum deeply concave (Fig. 1B). Mandibles small and rudimentary; points absent (Fig. 1C). Antenna with 11 articles; third article longer than second or

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fourth. Pronotum with anterior margin faintly indented in middle, posterior margin rounded. Tibial spurs 2:2:2.

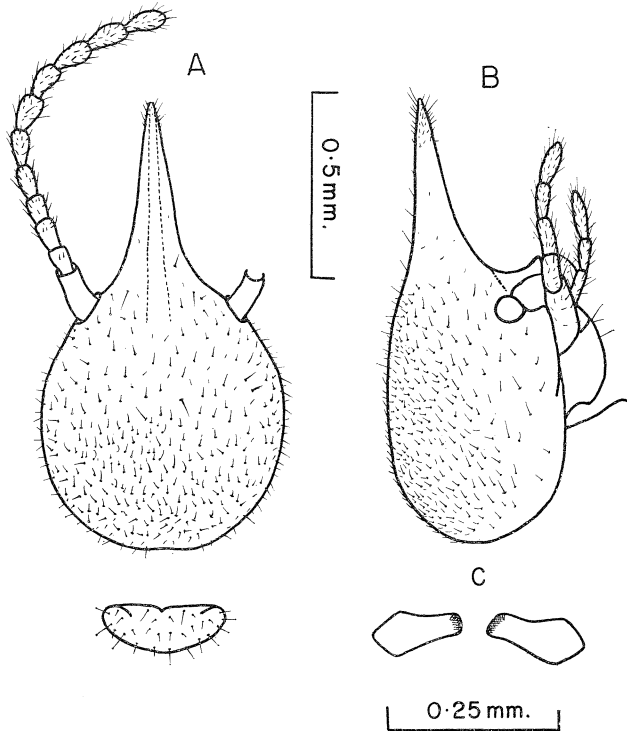


Fig. 1. Unique type soldier of *Nasutitermes fabricii*, new species. A. Head and pronotum from above. B. Head from side. C. Mandibles from above.

Table 1  
Measurements (in millimetres) of Holotype soldier of  
*Nasutitermes fabricii*, new species

Length of head to tip of rostrum	1.28
Length of rostrum	0.49
Width of head	0.69
Height of head	0.61
Maximum length of pronotum	0.15
Width of pronotum	0.38
Length of hind tibia	0.71

Comparisons: *Nasutitermes fabricii*, new species, along with *N. mollis* Light and Wilson, is the smallest of all the Oriental

species of the genus *Nasutitermes*. In its minute size, its small number of antennal segments, and its densely pilose head, *N. fabricii* is closely related to *N. mollis* Light and Wilson, from the Philippines. However, *N. fabricii* differs from the latter in the following respects: The color of the head is lighter; the bristles and hairs on the head are shorter; the rostrum is more slender at the base; in profile, the dorsal surface of the head is more convex, the ventral contour of the rostrum is more deeply concave, and the top of the rostrum is not in line with the dorsal surface of the head; there is no constriction at the base of the rostrum (slight constriction in *N. mollis*); and the mandibles do not have points or apical processes (quite distinct in *N. mollis*).

**Type locality:** Little Nicobar, Nicobar Islands, one soldier (holotype), workers, collected during the Danish Galathea Expedition, 1845—1847.

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### Anmeldelse.

W. Forster & Th. A. Wohlfahrt: **Die Schmetterlinge Mitteleuropas**. Stuttgart. (1952—?). Bd. III (1956—1960): Spinner (Bombyces) und Schwärmer (Sphinges). 237 sider, 28 farvetavler (Lief. 7-15). Pris indb. DM 125.-, Band IV: Eulen (Noctuidae) (Lief. 6-18) à DM 18.-.

Støt, men uhyre langsomt, skrider dette vigtige værk fremad (tidligere anmeldt Ent. Medd. bd. 26 p. 488, bd. 28 p. 159-160, hvortil henvises).

Med Lief. 15 er 3. bind, der har undertitlen Bombyces og Sphinges, men som tillige behandler de mere »inferiøre« grupper såsom Psychider (herunder Talaeporider), Hepialider osv., afsluttet, og herefter resterer nu »kun« ugerne og målerne, af hvilke førstnævnte er påbegyndt i Lief. 16.

Tredie bind er, noget udenfor rammerne, prydet med 8 pragtfulde tavler med fotografier, der (efter schweizisk mønster) viser højre forvinge af *Whittleia*- og *Solenobia*-arter i stærkt forstørret målestok. Af farvetavlerne kan særlig fremhæves tavle 24 med de vanskelige små Psychider og Talaeporider; den er lykkedes overraskende godt. I det hele taget er de sidste grupper i »spinderbindet« behandlet med nok så stor omhu som de første.

Den allestedsnærværende inflation har medført, at hver dellevering fra og med uglebindet nu er steget 80 % i pris. I de hidtil udsendte tre hæfter af dette bind er behandlet 262 arter illustreret med 393 akvarellreproduktioner, der sikkert er så gode, som den anvendte teknik tillader. Nomenklaturen er naturligvis atter moderniseret, men figurerne