

● **Termites**
(From page 5)

or the soldiers have the equipment to chew off particles of wood, and only the workers have the digestive system capable of digesting cellulose fibres.

Worker termites chew up the wood particles and change the cellulose to sugars. The reproducers and soldiers are dependent on the workers for digested food which they take from the worker's body by licking the worker and thereby getting the sugars exuded through the body tissues. Sometimes the worker will disgorge portions of the digested material for the other castes to eat.

Even though the adult reproducers are somewhat more tolerant of light, heat and dry air than are the other castes, they will die if exposed to the atmosphere for more than six to ten hours at one time.

Termite Signs

Knowing the signs to look for may save homeowners costly repair bills by discovering termite infestation before extensive damage is done.

Of course the presence of swarming termites in the vicinity (Turn to page 7)

New Process Produces Instant Sweet Potatoes

"Instant" sweetpotatoes are now ready for the pilot-plant stage of development, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported today. Officials emphasized, however, that additional research and developmental work remain to be done before such products will be in commercial production or available to consumers.

Agricultural Research Service scientists report that instant sweetpotato flakes, prepared in the laboratory by a process similar to that developed by the Department and used in manufacturing instant white potato flakes, have the characteristic bright color as well as the flavor of fresh pureed sweetpotatoes. When added to hot water or milk, the flakes are ready in 60 seconds to eat as mashed sweetpotatoes or for use in a pie or casserole, seasoned and garnished as preferred.

Two major problems remaining to be solved to make instant sweetpotatoes commercially feasible are (1) process engineering and (2) flavor stabilization during storage.

Oxygen appears to be the greatest contributor to flavor

changes in the sweet-potato flakes, Department scientists reported, and packaging in nitrogen or some other inert gas may insure flavor stabilization. Samples of instant sweetpotato flakes made in the laboratory and packaged in nitrogen gas, much the same as some coffee is now packaged, have retained full flavor for more than a year, while flakes packaged in ordinary atmosphere deteriorated.

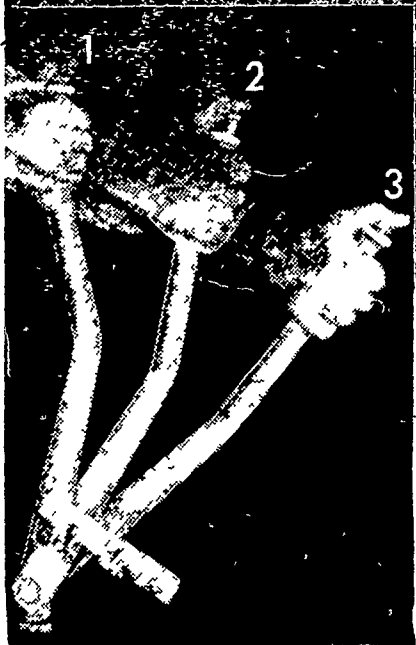
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