

with the smallest areas. Between the top cover 32 and the bottom cover 33 and within the perimeter formed by the side cage 34 is the inventive bait 36 impregnated with a slow acting toxicant such as sulfluramid. The side cage 34 is welded to the bottom cover 33.

The top cover 32 has a plurality of top cover screw holes 37. The bait 36 has a plurality of screw holes 38, which mate with the top cover screw holes 37. A plurality of spacers 39 are provided, with a spacer 39 in each bait screw hole 38. The bottom cover 33 has a plurality of bottom cover screw holes 40, which mate with the bait screw holes 38. A plurality of screws 41 are provided with a screw 41 passing through a top cover screw hole 37 and its mating bait screw hole 38, and its mating bottom cover screw hole 40. As the screw 41 passes through the bait screw hole 38 it also passes through a spacer 39. The screws 41 provide a means for mounting the bait station 30 to a wall of a structure. The screws 41 also secure the top cover 32 to the bottom cover 33 so that the edges of the top cover 32 press against the side cage 34 forming the outer cover 31 and making the outer cover 31 tamper resistant. The heads of the screws 41 are square socket heads.

The bottom cover 33 has a plurality of bottom cover apertures 43 in the shape of slots. Side apertures 44 are formed at the junction where the side cage 34 and the bottom cover 33 meet. The bottom cover apertures 43 and the side apertures 44 are small enough to prevent children from touching the bait 36, thus helping to make the 30 bait station 30 tamper resistant.

The bait 36 comprises three sheets of wood 45. Each sheet of wood 45 has a first set of parallel grooves 46 and a second set of parallel grooves 47 which are perpendicular to the first set of parallel grooves 46. The first and second set of parallel grooves 46, 47 are formed on one or more sides of each sheet 45. The first and second set of parallel grooves have a width of approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. A central aperture 48 allows termites to pass to different layers of the sheets 45.

The operation of this bait station 30 is the similar to the bait station 50 above, but is adapted to be mounted on the walls of a structure. The tinted transparent plastic top cover 32 allows inspection of the bait 36 without removing the bait station 30.

By using a plurality of thin sheets of wood 45 for the bait 36, the surface area to volume ratio is increased, making the bait 36 more attractive to termites and providing a higher ratio of slow acting toxicant to volume of bait 36. Providing a first set and second set of grooves 46, 47 in different directions, also increases the attractiveness of the bait 36 to termites, when it is unknown as to which direction the termites will be approaching the bait 36.

FIG. 5 illustrates a bait 81 for use in a linear bait station 82. The linear station 82 used in this example is cylindrical. For this reason the bait 81 is a rectangular block of wood 83, with grooves 84 on the sides of the block of wood 83 extending along the length of the block of wood 83. A cap 85 is used to hold the bait 81 in the linear station 82. An aperture 87 is drilled in the center of the block of wood 83 to remove some of the bulk of the wood.

Other embodiments of the inventive bait may be used in other termite traps. In other embodiments the block of wood may be formed using other types of wood to attract different types of termites. Pine would be used for one type of termite and oak may be used for another type of termite. Wood particles may be pressed together to form a solid block, which would be the block of wood. Another embodiment when providing grooves on opposite sides of a block of wood, could stagger the grooves from one side to the other.

While preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described herein, it will be appreciated that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for controlling termites, comprising:
 - a block of wood, with a surface, wherein a plurality of grooves extend across a surface of the block of wood;
 - a slow acting toxicant impregnating the surface of the block of wood.
2. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grooves are between a thirty-secondth of an inch to one inch in width and wherein a first set of at least three of the plurality of grooves are parallel.
3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein a second set of at least three of the plurality of grooves are perpendicular to the first set.
4. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 2, wherein the block of wood has a length, a width and a thickness, wherein the length of the block of wood is at least six times the thickness of the block of wood.
5. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 4, further comprising, an outer cover surrounding the bait, wherein the outer cover has a plurality of apertures.
6. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 5, wherein the slow acting toxicant kills a termite in a time period between 96 hours and 720 hours after ingestion of a termiticidally effective amount of the toxicant by the termite.
7. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 6, wherein the slow acting toxicant is selected from the group consisting of: boric acid, borate, hydramethylnon, macrolide antibiotics, insect growth regulators, biological agents, protozoacides, termiticides, and slow acting poisons.
8. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 7, wherein the slow acting toxicant is selected from the group consisting of sulfluramid abamectin, hydramethylnon, hexaflumuron, spinosyn A, spinosyn D and mixtures thereof.
9. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a means for mounting the outer cover on a wall of a structure.
10. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slow acting toxicant kills a termite in a time period between 96 hours and 720 hours after ingestion of a termiticidally effective amount of the toxicant by the termite.
11. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 10, wherein the slow acting toxicant is selected from the group consisting of: boric acid, borate, hydramethylnon, macrolide antibiotics, insect growth regulators, biological agents, protozoacides, termiticides, and slow acting poisons.
12. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 11, wherein the slow acting toxicant is selected from the group consisting of sulfluramid abamectin, hydramethylnon, hexaflumuron, spinosyn A, spinosyn D and mixtures thereof.
13. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 12, further comprising, an outer cover surrounding the bait, wherein the outer cover has a plurality of apertures.
14. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a means for mounting the outer cover on a wall.
15. The apparatus, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grooves are approximately one eighth of an inch in width and wherein a first set of at least three of the plurality of grooves are parallel.
16. A method for controlling termites in a structure with a known location for active termite activity, comprising the steps of:
 - locating an active termite tube in the structure; and