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FACTORS INFLUENCING THE BIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF COLONIES OF POROTERMES ADAMSONI (FROGGATT)  
(ISOPTERA:HODOTERMITIDAE:POROTERMITINAE)

by

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A thesis submitted  
for the degree of Master of Agricultural Science  
in the University of Adelaide.

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September, 1973

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## SUMMARY

The biology and development of Porotermes adamsoni was studied with particular emphasis on the early development of cultures of isolated larvae. The factors that influenced the maturation and survival of supplementary reproductives have been examined and the processes which appear to cause the stabilisation of young colonies have been reported. The environment and the mature ovipositing female both appear to exert an effect on neoteny. In young colonies developed by primary reproductives the fecundity of queens seems to increase as the number of larvae reaching the third instar increases. Such colonies develop slowly and may take more than a year before soldiers or other dependent forms appear within them.

## DECLARATION

The work presented in this thesis is my own, unless otherwise acknowledged in the appropriate place; it has not previously been published or submitted to this or any other university for the award of any degree.

(A. Mensa-Bonsu)