

OR076*Footprint of increased anthropogenic disturbance elevates termite pest status***Kok-Boon Neoh**, Vuong Nguyen Tan, My Nguyen Thi, Huy Nguyen Quoc, Masayuki Itoh, Osamu Kozan

Among tropical regions, Southeast Asia is known to be ecological dominance of termites, yet also one of the highest rates of natural forest loss for urbanization (e.g., human settings, agricultural intensification). Local and landscape-scale modification has posed a major threat to global biodiversity as hectares of natural forest were razed to make way for more human dominating landscapes. Soil-dwelling invertebrates such as termites in particular are susceptible to rapid habitat modification owing to changes in microclimate, food availability, and light regimes. This, in turn, disrupts the integrity of their habitat and alters the biological functioning in an ecosystem. Using the example of land-used transition from natural forest to intensified cropland in Vietnam, this presentation will explain how the anthropogenic footprint driven by urbanization and socio-economic demand, elevate termite pest status following the termite dominance shift in line with increased land-use gradients.