

**Table S1.** Studies that have reported forage substrates in fungus-growing termite species, summarized in Figure 2 of the main text. Species names are given as reported in the respective references. The references Eggleton et al. [1] and Nkunika [2] did not explain what the taxonomical annotations ‘near’ and ‘?’ mean in their studies.

| Termite species                | Forage substrate                                                                     | Reference |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Macrotermes</i> sp.         | wood and grass                                                                       | [3]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> sp.         | wood, grass and leaf litter                                                          | [4]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> sp.         | dead plant material                                                                  | [5]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> sp.         | dung, wood and grass litter                                                          | [6]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> sp.         | dung, wood and grass litter                                                          | [7]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> spp.1       | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> spp.2       | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> spp.3       | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes</i> spp.4       | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | grass litter, roots and fresh plants                                                 | [9]       |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | dead roots                                                                           | [10]      |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | woody litter, elephant dung                                                          | [11]      |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | woody litter, eucalyptus fresh and decaying leaves                                   | [12]      |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | standing dead grass, grass litter                                                    | [13]      |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | dead wood                                                                            | [14]      |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | live grass                                                                           | [5]       |
| <i>Macrotermes michaelsoni</i> | wood and grass litter                                                                | [15]      |
| <i>Macrotermes subhyalinus</i> | grass litter, fresh plant material and roots (the last if litter is in short supply) | [16]      |
| <i>Macrotermes subhyalinus</i> | leaves and dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                    | [17]      |
| <i>Macrotermes subhyalinus</i> | log and twigs                                                                        | [18]      |
| <i>Macrotermes subhyalinus</i> | dung, wood and grass litter                                                          | [15]      |
| <i>Macrotermes subhyalinus</i> | millet canes, dung, wood litter                                                      | [19]      |
| <i>Macrotermes bellicosus</i>  | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                               | [17]      |
| <i>Macrotermes bellicosus</i>  | log and twigs                                                                        | [18]      |
| <i>Macrotermes bellicosus</i>  | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes bellicosus</i>  | live wood                                                                            | [20]      |
| <i>Macrotermes bellicosus</i>  | dead grass                                                                           | [21]      |
| <i>Macrotermes herus</i>       | grass litter                                                                         | [8]       |
| <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i>      | fresh leaves and grass                                                               | [22]      |
| <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i>      | grass stalks, leaves, grass blades, fallen mango leaves                              | [23]      |
| <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i>      | wood, bark and grass                                                                 | [24]      |
| <i>Macrotermes gilvus</i>      | wood                                                                                 | [25]      |
| <i>Macrotermes natalensis</i>  | grass, leaves, thorns, fruit husks, twiglets                                         | [26]      |
| <i>Macrotermes natalensis</i>  | dry wood, cow dung, decaying wood and bark                                           | [27]      |
| <i>Macrotermes natalensis</i>  | live wood                                                                            | [20]      |
| <i>Macrotermes natalensis</i>  | wood litter                                                                          | [28]      |
| <i>Macrotermes falciger</i>    | live wood                                                                            | [2]       |
| <i>Macrotermes falciger</i>    | live wood                                                                            | [20]      |

|                                                |                                                              |      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Macrotermes falciger</i>                    | dung, wood and grass litter                                  | [15] |
| <i>Macrotermes malaccensis</i>                 | live wood and roots                                          | [29] |
| <i>Macrotermes ukuzii</i>                      | dung, wood and grass litter                                  | [15] |
| <hr/>                                          |                                                              |      |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | wood and grass                                               | [3]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | wood (dead and fresh material)                               | [30] |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | dung and wood                                                | [6]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | roots, grass and wood litter                                 | [4]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | dead wood                                                    | [14] |
| <i>Microtermes</i> sp.                         | dead plant material                                          | [5]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> spp.                        | log and twigs                                                | [18] |
| <i>Microtermes</i> spp.                        | Fresh roots and dry wood                                     | [2]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> spp.                        | small twigs, broken branches, woody, grass, and leaf litter, | [11] |
| <i>Microtermes</i> spp.                        | leaves                                                       | [17] |
| <i>Microtermes</i> ?albopartitus               | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> ?alluaudanus                | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes</i> ?aluco                      | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes alluaudanus</i>                 | dung, wood fragments                                         | [31] |
| <i>Microtermes congoensis</i>                  | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes depauperata</i>                 | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes grassei</i>                     | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Microtermes mycophagus</i>                  | wood, fresh plant material (trees and leaves)                | [32] |
| <i>Microtermes obesi</i>                       | fresh leaves and wood                                        | [33] |
| <i>Microtermes pakistanicus</i>                | dead plant material, palm trees, sugar cane                  | [34] |
| <i>Microtermes subhyalinus</i>                 | sugar cane                                                   | [35] |
| <i>Microtermes toumodiensis</i>                | wood litter                                                  | [36] |
| <i>Microtermes unicolor</i>                    | fresh leaves and wood                                        | [37] |
| <i>Microtermes yemenensis</i>                  | fresh plant material                                         | [38] |
| <hr/>                                          |                                                              |      |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | dung and wood                                                | [6]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | dead plant material                                          | [5]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | woody litter                                                 | [11] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | dry wood, cow dung                                           | [27] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | wood, grass and leaf litter                                  | [4]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.                        | dry wood                                                     | [2]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.1                       | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp.2                       | wood                                                         | [1]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. near <i>badius</i>     | dry wood                                                     | [2]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. near <i>kinarensis</i> | live roots                                                   | [2]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> spp.                       | log and twigs                                                | [18] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> spp.1                      | grass litter                                                 | [8]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> spp.2                      | grass litter                                                 | [8]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. A                      | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                       | [17] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. A                      | dead wood                                                    | [14] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. A                      | wood and grass                                               | [3]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. B                      | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                       | [17] |

|                                       |                                                                          |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. B             | wood and grass                                                           | [3]  |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. B             | dead wood                                                                | [14] |
| <i>Odontotermes</i> sp. C             | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                   | [17] |
| <i>Odontotermes pauperans</i>         | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                   | [17] |
| <i>Odontotermes pauperans</i>         | monocot litter                                                           | [36] |
| <i>Odontotermes formosanus</i>        | log and fresh leaves                                                     | [39] |
| <i>Odontotermes formosanus</i>        | Dead wood                                                                | [40] |
| <i>Odontotermes badius</i>            | dry wood, cow dung,                                                      | [27] |
| <i>Odontotermes badius</i>            | dead wood, sound wood and live wood from eucalyptus                      | [2]  |
| <i>Odontotermes badius</i>            | dung, wood and grass litter                                              | [15] |
| <i>Odontotermes boanicus</i>          | dung and wood                                                            | [41] |
| <i>Odontotermes mediocris</i>         | dung, wood fragments                                                     | [31] |
| <i>Odontotermes zambesiensis</i>      | dung, wood fragments                                                     | [31] |
| <i>Odontotermes lukanandi</i>         | fresh leaves and wood                                                    | [37] |
| <i>Odontotermes lukanandi</i>         | fresh leaves and wood                                                    | [33] |
| <i>Odontotermes latericius</i>        | dung and wood                                                            | [15] |
| <i>Odontotermes obesus</i>            | roots                                                                    | [42] |
| <i>Odontotermes nilensis</i>          | millet canes and Acacia litter, cow dung                                 | [19] |
| <i>Odontotermes transvaalensis</i>    | live roots and dry wood                                                  | [2]  |
| <i>Odontotermes transvaalensis</i>    | dung and wood                                                            | [15] |
| <i>Odontotermes patruus</i>           | dung and wood                                                            | [41] |
| <i>Odontotermes amaniensis</i>        | wood                                                                     | [43] |
| <hr/>                                 |                                                                          |      |
| <i>Allodontermes</i> sp.              | woody litter                                                             | [11] |
| <i>Allodontermes</i> sp.              | wood and grass                                                           | [3]  |
| <i>Allodontermes</i> sp.              | dead wood                                                                | [14] |
| <i>Allodontermes</i> sp.              | dung, wood and grass litter                                              | [6]  |
| <i>Allodontermes rhodesiensis</i>     | sound wood (dry wood) of eucalyptus (dry)                                | [2]  |
| <i>Allodontermes schulzei</i>         | live and dead wood                                                       | [2]  |
| <hr/>                                 |                                                                          |      |
| <i>Synacanthotermes zanzibarensis</i> | wood fragments                                                           | [31] |
| <i>Synacanthotermes zanzibarensis</i> | Fresh roots and live wood                                                | [2]  |
| <i>Synacanthotermes heterodon</i>     | wood                                                                     | [1]  |
| <hr/>                                 |                                                                          |      |
| <i>Ancistrotermes</i> sp.             | wood (dead and fresh material)                                           | [30] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes</i> sp.             | roots, grass and wood litter                                             | [4]  |
| <i>Ancistrotermes cavithorax</i>      | log and twigs                                                            | [44] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes cavithorax</i>      | wood litter                                                              | [36] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes crucifer</i>        | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                   | [17] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes guineensis</i>      | millet canes, wood                                                       | [19] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes latinotus</i>       | dead wood                                                                | [14] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes latinotus</i>       | live roots                                                               | [15] |
| <i>Ancistrotermes latinotus</i>       | dung, wood and grass litter                                              | [15] |
| <hr/>                                 |                                                                          |      |
| <i>Protermes</i> sp.                  | dry wood (eucalyptus)                                                    | [2]  |
| <i>Protermes birticeps</i>            | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                   | [17] |
| <i>Protermes minutus</i>              | leaves and dead wood fragments from trees or logs                        | [17] |
| <i>Protermes prorepens</i>            | wood and litter                                                          | [1]  |
| <hr/>                                 |                                                                          |      |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i>   | dead wood fragments from trees or logs                                   | [17] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i>   | dung, wood and grass litter                                              | [45] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i>   | dead leaves, twigs, branches, logs, sound wood. Live roots and live wood | [2]  |

|                                     |                                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | sugar cane                                                | [46] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | corn                                                      | [17] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | live wood (tea)                                           | [47] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | rice                                                      | [48] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | live roots (cassava)                                      | [49] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | sugar cane                                                | [50] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes militaris</i> | wood and litter                                           | [1]  |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes spiniger</i>  | wood and litter                                           | [1]  |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes spiniger</i>  | dead leaves, twigs, branches, logs, sound wood, live wood | [2]  |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes spiniger</i>  | wood and bark                                             | [26] |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes</i> spp.      | grass litter                                              | [8]  |
| <i>Pseudacanthotermes</i> sp.       | dead plant material                                       | [5]  |
| <i>Acanthotermes acanthorax</i>     | wood and bark                                             | [26] |
| <i>Acanthotermes</i> spp.           | grass, live root, live wood, fresh leaves                 | [51] |
| <i>Acanthotermes acanthothorax</i>  | wood and litter                                           | [1]  |

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