CHAPTER 4

STUDY AREA
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Location and boundary

The North Eastern region of India is a part of Eastern Himalaya, and our present site of investigation belongs to Cachar District of the state of Assam situated in the same region. Cachar district is situated at Barak valley, one of the major divisions of the state of Assam with two other districts namely Hailakandi and Karimganj. This valley is having a geographical area of 6922 sq km and located between the longitude 92° 15' and 93° 15' E and latitude 24° 8' and 25° 8' N with an altitude of 36 m msl. Though it contains about 9% of the total area of the state but it holds 11.24 per cent of the total state population as per 2001 census. The valley is characterized by undulating topography, wide plain lands and low lying waterlogged areas. The total area occupied by Cachar district is 3786 sq km, which lies approximately between longitude 92°24'E and 93°15'E and latitude 24°22’N and 25°8’N. The valley is surrounded by the North Cachar Hill District of Assam and Jaintia Hill District of Meghalaya in the North, the state of Mizoram and Manipur in the South and East, and by the state of Tripura and the Sylhet District of Bangladesh in the West. The valley is surrounded by the Barail range of Hills in the East and the Hills of Mizoram in the south, which extends as Arakan Yoma in Myanmar.

Geology

The geology of Barak Valley mostly comprises tertiary formation. The total rocks found within the valley are the sandstones of the Barail series, which are concentrated in a small area. Otherwise, rocks of Surma, Tipam and Dihing
series along with older alluvium are predominant. While the Surma and Tipam series mostly comprise sandstones, sandy and clay shales and ferruginous clay. The Dihing series is largely made up of pebble beds of the tertiaries containing large number of malvine fossils, but the greater portion of the tertiary is almost barren.

**Climate**

The climatic condition of the valley is sub-tropical warm and humid. With most of the precipitation during May to September, which is mainly controlled by Southwest monsoon season. The average rainfall of this valley is more than 2500 mm. most of which is received during May to September. Longer spell of rainfall in North-eastern India compared to other part of the country usually contributed by Southwest monsoon.

Considering the diversities in physiography & variations in environmental factors, the study areas have been marked into four natural units (North, South, East and Western zones) for better understanding of the termite population, their ways of life in the valley along with the possible extent of control strategies.

Tea gardens from different zones of the Cachar district have been included under the present investigation. These are Kashipore T.E., Pallor bund T.E., Laboc T.E. Koomer (Division) T.E., Binnakandi T.E., Kallinecherra T.E., Digharkhal T.E., Jellalpore T.E., Dolu T.E., Chandighat T.E., Silcoorie T.E. (Borakhai Division), Borjalenga T.E. and Rosekandy T.E.