

研究人员近日在巴西东北部的森林里发现了大量数米高由白蚁建造的“金字塔”。它们有近4000年历史，且现在仍有白蚁在其中活动。



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Termites are well known for creating elaborate nests, with vast networks of underground tunnels. Many species

create skyscraping chimneys atop these lairs to ventilate the underground chambers, and in some African species, these mounds can tower 30 feet high. But the Brazilian mounds are neither chimneys nor nests. They're with no internal structures. Nothing lives inside them.

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The local termites create extensive subterranean labyrinths of tunnels, and they eject whatever soil they don't need on the surface. The process is slow and gradual, but the termites have been at it for millennia. They're more like a geological force than an organism. Just as rivers or glaciers sculpt the landscape around them, so too have these tiny insects sculpted some 90,000 square miles of Brazil into a junkyard that's visible from space.

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