

Subterranean Termites

E.G. COPTOTERMES SPP.

APPEARANCE



- 3/16"-3/8" in length
- Soldiers: White, broad bodies with a brown head.

LIFECYCLE

- Queens can lay several thousands of eggs in one day.
- The king remains only slightly bigger than an average termite and continues to mate with the queen for life.
- Males in ant colonies die immediately after mating, unlike termite male alates, which become kings and live with the queen.

HABITS

- Nests are built in the soil and these termites are very dependent on soil for moisture.
- In their search for food, subterranean termites construct mud tubes because they are susceptible to desiccation when exposed to air.
- Subterranean termites usually work their way above ground to reach wood or any other cellulose source. The cellulose is then broken down into simple starch with the help of protozoans in the termites' gut.

Drywood Termites

CRYPTOTERMES SPP.

APPEARANCE



- Larvae – 1/32" long, translucent white.
- Soldiers – 3/16" pale thorax and abdomen with a darker head .
- King and Queen – bodies up to 5/16", or 7/16" including wings.

LIFECYCLE

- The winged adults (alates) emerge from the nest and swarm. After a short flight, they land and shed their wings .
- Once the females attract a male they seek a suitable site, e.g. a crack in a dry timber beam, and begin to excavate a chamber.
- They do not mate until they are sealed into their nest. Mating occurs throughout the life of the colony.
- The development of the colony is slow and after 1 year, the King and Queen may only have produced 3 or 4 larvae.
- The larvae develop into workers, soldiers or alates.

HABITS

- They infest dry timber, e.g. structural timbers.
- They expand their nests by eating through timber in all directions; eventually leaving just a hollow, yet otherwise normal appearing piece of timber.
- They are most frequently detected by the frass that is ejected from the infested timber.

Damp Wood Termites

NEOTERMES SPP.

APPEARANCE



- 3/16"-3/8" in length
- Brown in colour
- 2 pairs of long slender wings which are deciduous

LIFECYCLE

- Primary Queens can lay several thousand eggs a day.
- A colony has a King and Queen - it is not uncommon for a colony to have an additional breeding pair.

HABITS

- Colonies can contain up to several thousand termites
- A self-organised swarm which prefer damp conditions.
- This group of termites feed on decayed wood such as old tree stumps, rotting logs and pieces of buried timber. Once established, they can move into sound wood structures in buildings.

West Indian Dry Wood Termite

CRYPTOTERMES BREVIS

APPEARANCE



- Soldiers are about 5.0mm long

LIFECYCLE

- The mature nymphs are the same size as the adults but paler in colour

HABITS

- Because it is able to attack even small articles of wood, this species is considered to be the world's most serious termite pest.