

Comparison of Termites

	Subterranean Termites	Drywood Termites	Dampwood Termites
Where they are found	In Soil (subterranean)	In Dry Wood	In Moist Wood
Where they live	Throughout US (except Alaska)	Primarily in coastal states (VA thru FL, Gulf of Mexico, AZ, UT, CA to WA & HI)	In coastal states (British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Florida & Keys)
Appearance of the damage	Galleries running with the grain of wood - appear ribbed and "oatmealish" with a brown mud-like material made of soil, saliva and termite feces	Clean, smooth galleries, cut across the grain of wood with six-sided pellets kicked out of the galleries (pellets have distinct longitudinal ridges and are concave)	Large, smooth galleries across the grain of wood containing six-sided pellets without distinct ridges & clumped together (moist) usually present in galleries
Signs of infestation	Damage, mud tubes, live or dead termites, shed swarmer wings, carton (especially Formosan termites)	Damage, piles of six-sided fecal pellets with blunt ends & concave sides, live or dead termites, shed swarmer wings	Damage, six-sided fecal pellets with blunt ends (lack longitudinal ridges), live or dead termites, shed swarmer wings
Characteristics of the worker caste	Soft-bodied, creamy-white colored wingless, without eyes (blind)	Soft-bodied, creamy-white colored nymphs No worker caste (have wingless nymphs)	Soft-bodied, lightly pigmented nymphs No worker caste (have wingless nymphs)
Size - worker (nymph)	Small	Medium	Large
Characteristics of the head of the soldier caste	<i>Reticulitermes</i> - rectangular-shaped, enlarged head without teeth on the inside of the mandibles <i>Coptotermes</i> - tear-dropped shaped, no teeth on inside of mandibles	<i>Incisitermes</i> - rectangular-shaped, enlarged head with distinct teeth on the inside of the mandibles <i>Cryptotermes</i> - phragmotic shaped head, with teeth on the inside of the mandibles	Rectangular-shaped, enlarged head with distinct teeth on the inside of the mandibles
Size of the soldier	Small	Medium (<i>Cryptotermes</i> is exception)	Large
Characteristics of the alate (winged reproductive)	2 pair of equal size and shaped wings with 2 pigmented (dark) wing veins along the front of the wing - head wider than prothorax. Formosan have many small hairs present on wings	2 pair of equal size and shaped wings with 3 or more dark (pigmented) wing veins & diagonal crossveins along the front of each wing - prothorax wider than head	2 pair of equal size and shaped wings with 3 or more dark (pigmented) wing veins & diagonal crossveins along the front of each wing - prothorax wider than head
Body length of alate (from tip of the head to the tip of the wings)	<i>Reticulitermes</i> - 7 to 10 mm in length <i>Coptotermes</i> - app. 13-15 mm in length <i>Heterotermes</i> -	<i>Incisitermes</i> - 11 to 13 mm in length <i>Cryptotermes</i> - 10 mm in length	<i>Neotermes</i> - <i>Zootermopsis</i> - Up to 25 mm (1 inch) <i>Paraneotermes</i> -
General size of alate	Small (<i>Coptotermes</i> is exception)	Medium	Large
Time of Day Swarm Occurs	<i>Reticulitermes</i> - middle of the day <i>Coptotermes</i> - early evening (dark)	<i>I. Snyderi</i> & <i>C. brevis</i> - evening (dark) <i>I. minor</i> - daytime	Not found in Georgia
Time of Year Swarm Occurs	<i>Reticulitermes</i> - Feb. - May & Fall <i>Coptotermes</i> - Late May, June	<i>I. Snyderi</i> - June and July <i>I. minor</i> - June thru October	Not found in Georgia

Comparison of Termites

Alate, primary reproductive, swarmer SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES



Coptotermes formosanus



Reticulitermes flavipes



Reticulitermes virginicus



Reticulitermes hageni

Alate, swarmer DRYWOOD TERMITES



Incisitermes snyderi



Cryptotermes brevis



Kaloterms approximatus



Incisitermes minor

Alate, swarmer DAMPWOOD TERMITES

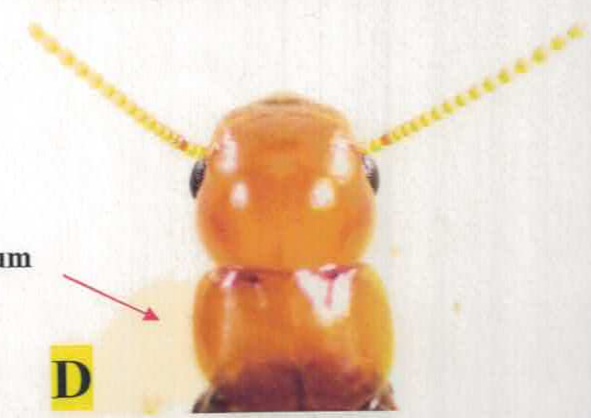
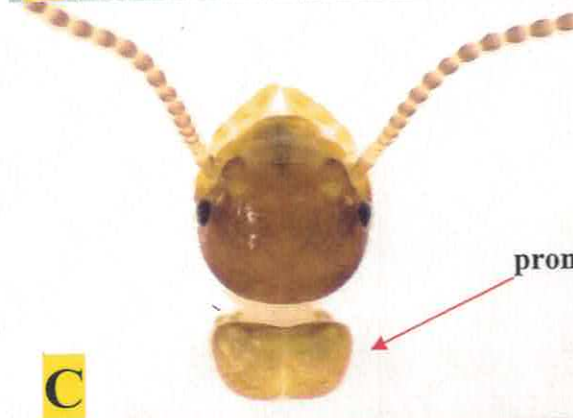
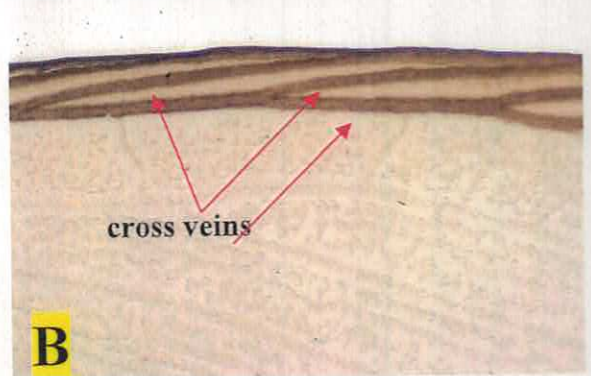
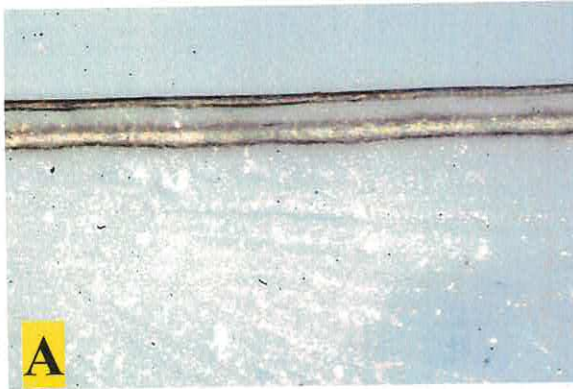


← *Zootermopsis angusticollis*
(found in CA, WA, OR)



Neoterms castaneus (found in FL)

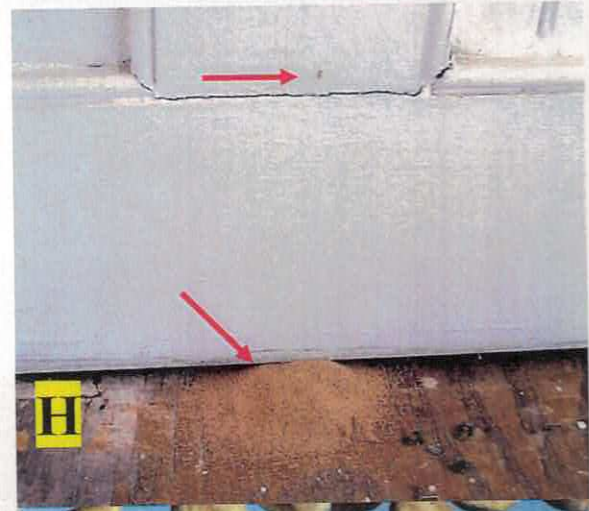
Subterranean or drywood termite?



Subterranean termites: cross veins absent in alate wings (*Fig. A*); pronotum less than width of head for each caste (*Fig. C*); and marginal teeth absent on mandibles of soldiers (*Fig. E*)

Drywood termites: cross veins present (*Fig. B*); pronotum as wide or wider than head for each caste (*Fig. D*); marginal teeth present on left mandible of soldiers (*Fig. F*)

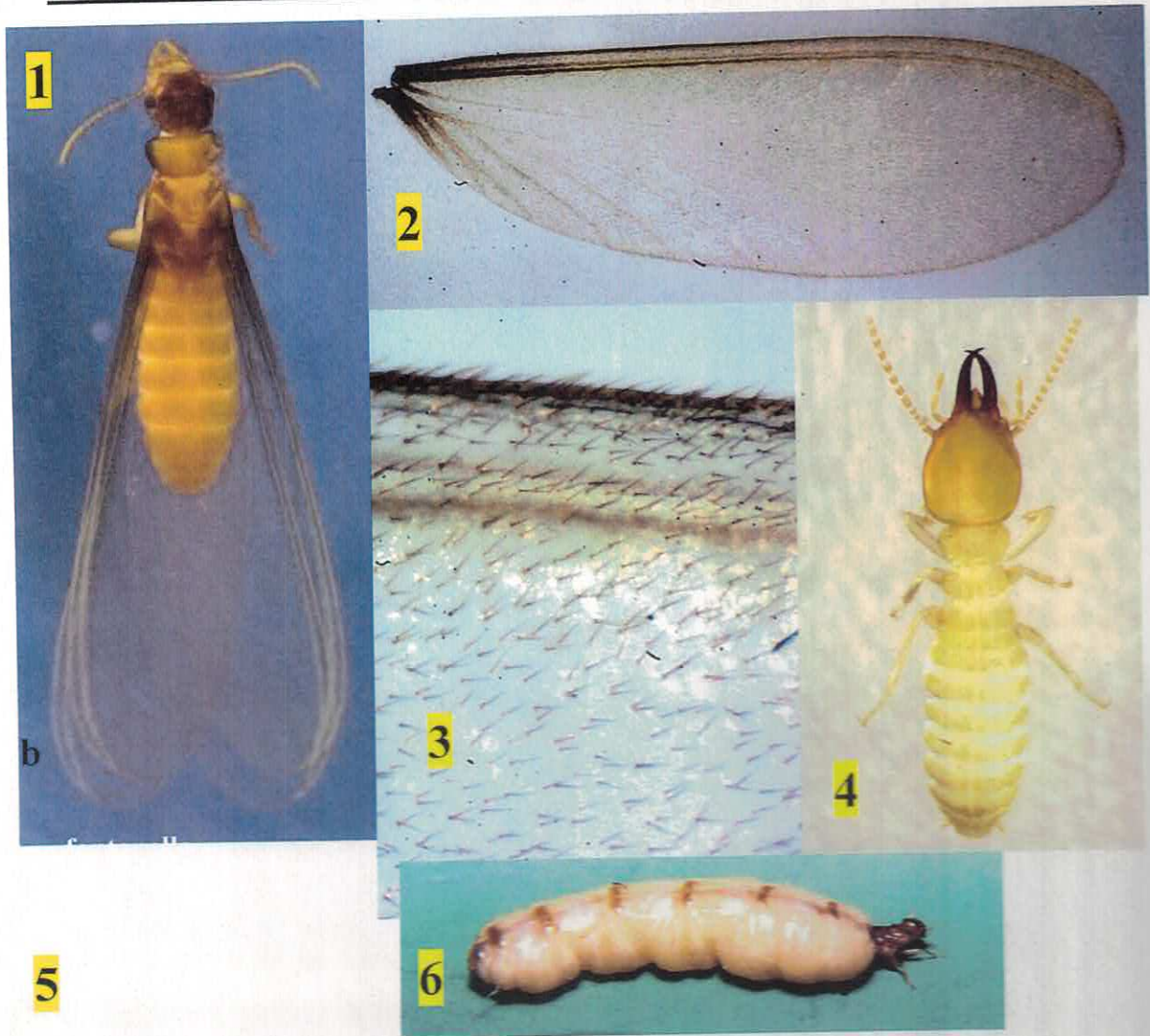
Subterranean or drywood termite evidence?



Subterranean termites: mud tubes inside (*Fig. G*) or outside (*Fig. I*) structure; damage along grain of wood (*Fig. K*)

Drywood termites: kick-out hole with a pile of frass (*Fig. H*); close-up of six-sided frass pellets (*Fig. J*); damage across grainwood (*Fig. L*)

Formosan subterranean termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*)



Alate: approx. 1/2 " (13 mm) in length; head dark brown (*Fig. 1*); body and pronotum yellowish to dark brown; wings (and body) densely covered with hair (*Figs. 2 & 3*); mature queen (*Fig. 6*)

Soldier: tear-drop shaped head (*Fig. 4*); aggressive; numerous in colony. Secretes milky-white substance from fontanelle gland opening on head capsule (*Fig. 5*) when disturbed.

Peak swarming: dusk flights during May and June

Distribution: parishes along and south of Interstates 10 and 12; Ouachita, Sabine, Beauregard, and Vernon Parishes. May be permanently established in other parishes.

Pest status: commonly infests structures and trees

DAMP-WOOD TERMITE

DRY-WOOD T.

SUBTERRANEAN T.

5 MM



TERMITE SOLDIERS

Size
comparison
of
termite
soldiers

Comparison of termite alates

Subterranean termites



Dampwood termites



Drywood termites

