

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Formosan Termite

Scientific Name: *Coptotermes formosanus* Shiraki

Order and Family: Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae

Size and Appearance: *Coptotermes formosanus* (Shiraki) alates (winged termites) are about 12 to 15 mm in length and have yellowish-brown coloration. The wings have noticeable small hairs located throughout. Soldiers are characterized by their large heads, curved mandibles, and white body.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.001 mm	A queen can lay 1000 eggs per day within the mud tubes built in soil.
Larva/Nymph	1-15 mm, depending on instar and caste	Larvae initially hatch from egg, then either molt into workers or soldiers. Several molts can occur over the course of years.
Adult	10-15 mm, depending on caste	Adults vary in size depending on caste. Queens can be 16 mm whereas most workers are 10-15 mm. They are yellowish-brown in color, and have distinct hairs present on wings. Soldiers are noted by having a large, rectangular head, curved mandibles, and a white body.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s or Prey: *C. formosanus* are wood-feeding insects and prefer a high moisture content of at least 20%. Tend to infest wood accessible at the soil/ground level.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Colonies move into wooden structures from the ground level by building mud tubes and tunnels. Damage is layered with soil present as a result. In addition to wooden structures, they also feed on live trees, utility poles, timbers, and boats.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Termites- Formosan Termites. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (10.7.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Su, N., Scheffrahn, R.H. (2000). Formosan Subterranean Termite. Retrieved on July 8th, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm