

## Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Eastern Subterranean Termite

**Scientific Name:** *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar)

**Order and Family:** Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae

**Size and Appearance:** *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar) are the most widely distributed species of termite in the United States. The swarmer stage of this termite is about 10 mm in length, including wings with a dark brown body and 2 dark veins on the wings. The soldiers of this species are about 2.7 mm in length with a large rectangular head and large mandibles.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.001 mm	Up to 10,000 eggs per year can be laid by the Queen.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-10 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.
<b>Adult</b>	10-12 mm, depending on caste	Adults vary in size depending on caste. Queens can be 12 mm whereas most workers are 10 mm. They are dark brown in color, have simple wings with 2 dark veins present. Soldiers are noted by having a large, rectangular head and big mandibles.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host/s or Prey:** *R. flavipes* are wood-feeding insects and prefer soft, spring wood.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Damaged wood will have a layered look due to galleries created by the burrowing termites. Since they prefer soft woods like pine, homes are susceptible to termite interest. If there is a heavy infestation, wood may appear blistered or peeling. Soil covering the wood often is an indicator of Eastern Subterranean termites.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Termites- Eastern Subterranean Termite. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.2.3). National Pest Management Association International.

Su, N., Scheffrahn, R.H. (2001). Eastern Subterranean Termite. University of Florida, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/native\\_subterraneans.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/native_subterraneans.htm)