1. PaDIL Species Factsheet

Scientific Name:  
*Coptotermes formosanus* Shiraki  
(Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae: Coptotermitinae)

Common Name  
Formosan subterranean termite  

Image Library  
Australian Biosecurity  

Partners for Australian Biosecurity image library

- Museum Victoria  

- CRC National Plant Biosecurity  

- Plant Health Australia  

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  

- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia  
2. Species Information

2.1. Details

**Specimen Contact:** AQIS - Brisbane and NSW -
**Author:** Walker, K.
**Citation:** Walker, K. (2005) Formosan subterranean termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*) Updated on 10/21/2011
Available online: PaDIL - http://www.padil.gov.au
**Image Use:** Free for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence

2.2. URL

Live link: http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136463

2.3. Facets

**Status:** Exotic Regulated Pest - absent from Australia
**Group:** Termites
**Commodity Overview:** Forestry
**Commodity Type:** Timber
**Distribution:** USA and Canada, South and South-East Asia
**Alate wings:** Cross veins absent
**Damage in timber:** Damage along grain of wood
**Distribution:** Exotic, SE Asia, USA, Canada
**Fontanelle:** Present, Two pair of setae at top of fontanelle
**Frass shape:** Irregular shaped
**Mud tube:** Present
**Nesting site:** In the root crown or lower trunk of a tree, Tree stump
**Pronotum:** Pronotum less than width of head for each caste
**Soldier antennae:** Segments all moniliform or bead shaped
**Soldier head dorsal profile:** Tear-shaped
**Soldier head side profile:** Dorsal surface rounded
**Mandibles:** Soldier marginal teeth absent, Worker & Alate teeth ratio: 4 and 2
**Cerci - Soldier:** Short - 2 segmented
**Dry- or Damp-wood termite:** Wings without cross veins, Along grain damage, Marginal teeth absent on mandibles of soldiers, Pronotum less than width of head, Mud tube present
**Fontanelle - Soldier:** Present
**Head ocelli - Imago:** Present
**Mandibles - Imago or Worker:** Left: 4 teeth; Right: 2 teeth
**Pronotum - Soldier:** Anterior lobe absent
**Tarsi - Imago or Soldier:** Tarsi 4 segmented
**Wings - Imago:** Forewing not reticulate
**Head characters:** Head round or broadly oval, Fontanelle indistinct, Clypeus small
**Mandibles:** Second marginal tooth of left mandible distinctly longer than first
**Wings:** Wing membrane very hairy, Not reticulate
**Antennal segments:** 13-17 segments
**Fontanelle:** Conspicuous, On anterior half of head
**Head size and shape:** Only one size head, Pear shaped
**Labrum shape:** Not applicable
2.4. Other Names
Coptotermes intrudens Oshima
PESTF -
Subterranean termite

2.5. Diagnostic Notes
The soldiers of C formosanus resemble those of C gestroi. Both species have a large fontanelle, when viewed from above, both also have a tear drop-shaped head;
The soldiers of two species may be separated as:
- Coptotermes gestroi soldiers have one pair of hairs near the rim of the fontanelle and the lateral profile of the top of the head just behind the fontanelle shows a weak bulge
- C. formosanus has two pairs of hairs that originate around the fontanelle and the lateral profile of the top of the head just behind the fontanelle do not show a weak bulge,
The alates of these two species may be separated as:
- C. gestroi combined body and wing length 13-14mm, maximum head width 1.4mm; colour on head, pronotum, and dorsal abdomen dark brown.
- C. formosanus combined body and wing length 14-15 mm, and maximum head width 1.5mm; colour on head, pronotum, and dorsal abdomen entirely a lighter yellow-brown or orange-brown.
Source:
http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/termites/havilandi.htm

2.6. References

2.7. Web Links
Fact Sheet: http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/urban/site/structural/formterm.htm
Identification, biology and damage: http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm
Images and Distribution Information:
http://www.termitesurvey.com/distribution/coptotermes_formosanus.shtml
ISSG Global Invasive Species Database:
3. Diagnostic Images

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Cercus view:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Dorsal view soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Fontanelle soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Head side soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Head top soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Lateral view soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria
USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Pronotum soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995. **Tarsi soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria
4. Other Images

Comparative images

**Diagnostic notes:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

USA. Honolulu, Hawaii, 2 May 1995.

**Lateral view soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

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