1. PaDIL Species Factsheet

Scientific Name:
Cryptotermes domesticus (Haviland)
(Isoptera: Kalotermitidae)

Common Name
Drywood termite
Live link: http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136470

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:** Museum Victoria - discoverycentre@museum.vic.gov.au

**Author:** Walker, K.

**Citation:** Walker, K. (2006) Drywood termite (*Cryptotermes domesticus*) Updated on 8/2/2012 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/136470

2.3. Facets

**Status:** Native Australian Pest Species

**Group:** Termites

**Commodity Overview:** Forestry

**Commodity Type:** Timber

**Distribution:** Central and South America, South and South-East Asia, Australasian - Oceanian

**Alate wings:** Cross veins present

**Damage in timber:** Damage across grain of wood

**Distribution:** Exotic, Queensland, SE Asia, Central and South America

**Fontanelle:** Absent

**Frass shape:** Six-sided frass pellets

**Mud tube:** Absent

**Nesting site:** Within the wood they infest

**Pronotum:** Pronotum as wide or wider than head for each caste

**Soldier antennae:** Segments all moniliform or bead shaped

**Soldier head dorsal profile:** Head leading edge steeply sloping - almost vertical, Wider near mid-point than leading edge, Relatively straight with median V-shaped notch

**Soldier head side profile:** Distal half of head deeply wrinkled

**Mandibles:** Soldier marginal teeth present, Worker & Alate teeth ratio: 3 and 3

**Cerci - Soldier:** Short - 2 segmented

**Dry- or Damp-wood termite:** Wings with cross veins, Across the grain damage, Marginal teeth present on mandibles of soldiers, Pronotum equal to or greater than width of head, Six-sided frass pellets

**Fontanelle - Soldier:** Absent

**Head ocelli - Imago:** Absent

**Mandibles - Imago or Worker:** Left: 3 teeth; Right: 3 teeth

**Pronotum - Soldier:** Anterior lobe absent

**Tarsi - Imago or Soldier:** Tarsi 4 segmented

**Wings - Imago:** Forewing not reticulate, Forewing scale twice length of hind wing scale

2.4. Other Names

*Calotermes (Cryptotermes) buxtoni* Hill, 1926

*Calotermes (Cryptotermes) dentatus* Oshima, 1914

*Calotermes (Cryptotermes) formosae* Holmgren, 1912

*Calotermes (Cryptotermes) gulosus* Hill, 1927
2.5. Diagnostic Notes

The soldier of this species is distinguished from other Australian species in this genus by the overhanging convex frontal flange, backwardly sloping frons and greatly reduced and flattened frontal horns.

Soldier body length 3.25-5.90mm, head in profile projecting forwards over bases of mandibles, and in dorsal view generally distinctly convex anteriorly; genal horns prominent, much larger than frontal horns; mandibles short, less than one half as long as head capsule, stout, strongly angulated and humped externally; anterior margin of pronotum deeply and widely angulated, finely and irregularly serrate.


**Description:**

Imago: Pale yellow-brown with anterior portion of head paler than the rest; wings hyaline or faintly tinged with brown. Head noticeably longer than wide, faintly narrowed immediately anterior to and posterior to eyes; cranial sutures distinct; eyes relatively large and prominent; ocelli small and contiguous with eyes; antennae usually of 15-16 segments, rarely 17 and 18, number may differ on each side. Pronotum as wide as head; anterior margin thickened, broadly and shallowly concave to almost straight; sides scarcely narrowed to weakly sinuous posterior margin. Head and pronotum with few hairs. Forewing with Rs of 5-7 branches; M unsclerotised and joining Rs beyond middle of wing; Cu weak and unsclerotised. Arolium present.

Soldier: Very variable in size (3.25-5.90mm). Head capsule glabrous, very dark brown to black; in dorsal view, generally convex on sides and truncated roundly behind, clearly narrowed in front of eyes; in profile, strongly concave behind frontal flange (occasionally, only weakly so); frontal flange generally not raised (slightly raised in specimens from Darwin area), almost always with conspicuous median notch; flange, when viewed dorsally, distinctly convex and overhanging frons which slopes backwards below flange; frons flat and rugose and with numerous obvious pores; frontal horns reduced to flattened, rounded bosses; genal horns well developed, prominent and directed upwards from long axis of head at an angle of ~ 45°; mandibles very short, stout and strongly angulated with reduced dentition and distinctly upswept from long axis of head; eyes distinct and slightly projecting; antennae of 9-15 segments, usually 12 or 13, number may differ on each side. Pronotum widely and angularly notched; anterior margin thickened and finely serrate, generally without conspicuous serrations but occasionally with a single small blunt projection towards anterolateral corners.

- Once thought to be exotic, _C. domesticus_ is now regarded as a native species and has been collected from various locations across northern Australia including several islands off north-eastern Queensland and the Torres Strait. It is also known from Malaysia and Singapore in south-east Asia, several island groups in the western Pacific and has been introduced into Panama.
- Colonies are small.

- A minor pest, _C. domesticus_ has been collected from structural timber, furniture, ornaments, house stumps, flooring, doors, internal partitioning, packing cases, dead trees, roots, logs, driftwood and dead branches on live Ceriops tagal (a mangrove).

The imago of _C. domesticus_ appears very similar to other pale-brown species of

2.6. References


2.7. Web Links

Generic review: http://www.unb.br/ib/zoo/docente/constant/catal/gen/crypto.htm
Pest Status: http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/exfor/data/pestreports.cfm?pestidval=88&amp;langdisplay=english
3. Diagnostic Images

Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University, 22 May 2007, H. F. Li
**Dorsal image - alate:** Caroline Harding
Museum Victoria

Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University, 22 May 2007, H. F. Li
**Dorsal Image - Worker:** Sarah McCaffrey
Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather
det. F. Gray
**Dorsal view - soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken
Walker Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather
det. F. Gray
**Head above soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken
Walker Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather
det. F. Gray
**Head front - soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken
Walker Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather
det. F. Gray
**Head front - soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken
Walker Museum Victoria
Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University, 22 May 2007, H. F. Li
**Head Oblique image:** Caroline Harding Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather det. F. Gray
**Head side - soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University, 22 May 2007, H. F. Li
**Lateral image - alate:** Caroline Harding Museum Victoria

Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University, 22 May 2007, H. F. Li
**Lateral Image - Worker:** Sarah McCaffrey Museum Victoria

Solomon Island: Tulagi, 1964, N. Heather det. F. Gray
**Lateral view - soldier:** Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker Museum Victoria

NEQ, Thursday Island, December 2008, J. Walker & P. Stephen
**Mandibles image:** Sarah McCaffrey Museum Victoria
Results Generated:
Tuesday, September 3, 2019