

1. PaDIL Species Factsheet



Scientific Name:

Coptotermes lacteus (Froggatt)

(Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae: Coptotermitinae)

Common Name

Milk Termite

Live link: <http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136475>

Image Library

Australian Biosecurity

Live link: <http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/>

Partners for Australian Biosecurity image library



Museum Victoria

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/>



CRC National Plant Biosecurity

<http://www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au/>



Plant Health Australia

<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/>



Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

<http://www.daff.gov.au/>



Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia

<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/>

2. Species Information

2.1. Details

Specimen Contact: QDPI&F -

Author: Walker, K.

Citation: Walker, K. (2006) Milk Termite(*Coptotermes lacteus*) Updated on 2/10/2009 Available online: PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>

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2.2. URL

Live link: <http://www.padil.gov.au:80/pests-and-diseases/Pest/Main/136475>

2.3. Facets

Status: Native Australian Pest Species

Group: Termites

Commodity Overview: Forestry

Commodity Type: Timber

Distribution: Australasian - Oceanian

Alate wings: Cross veins absent

Damage in timber: Damage along grain of wood

Distribution: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory

Fontanelle: Present, One pair of seta above fontanelle

Frass shape: Irregular shaped

Mud tube: Present

Nesting site: Mound builder

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 weakly sunken

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

Mandibles: Without obvious teeth in distal half

2.4. Other Names

Coptotermes sedulus Hill, 1923

milk-white termite

mound-building termite

subterranean termite

Termes lacteus Froggatt

2.5. Diagnostic Notes

Identification to species is based on the soldier but should be done by an expert as the characters are variable and identification should be based on locality, nesting habits and measurements of the soldier. May be confused with *Coptotermes frenchi* and *C. lacteus*. Distinguishing these three species is difficult and should be done by an expert. As a guide, the *Coptotermes acinaciformis* soldier is larger (5.0 - 6.5mm +/- 0.8mm) than soldiers of *C. frenchi* (4.0 - 5.0mm +/- 0.4mm) and *C. lacteus* (4.40 +/- 0.4mm). As well, the head in dorsal view for *C. frenchi* and *C. lacteus* is "pear shaped" compared to a somewhat "rectangular" shape for *C. acinaciformis*.

Source:

Hadlington, P. (1987). Australian termites and other common timber pests. New South Wales Press.

2.6. References

Hill, G.F. (1942). Termites (Isoptera) from the Australian Region. Melbourne: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research 479 pp. 24 pls [159-161] Brown, W.V., Watson, J.A.L., Carter, F.L., Lacey, M.J., Barrett, R.A. & McDaniel, C.A. (1990). Preliminary examination of cuticular hydrocarbons of worker termites as chemotaxonomic characters for some Australian species of *Coptotermes* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). *Sociobiol.* 16: 305-328 [311-317, 325-326] Watson, J.A.L. & Abbey, H.M. (1993). Atlas of Australian Termites. Melbourne & Canberra: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation 158 pp. [34]

2.7. Web Links

Distribution map: http://anic.ento.csiro.au/database/specimen_map.aspx?BiotID=24638

Taxonomy: <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/abrs/fauna/details.pl?pstrVol=ISOPTERA;pstrTaxa=207;pstrChecklistMode=2>

3. Diagnostic Images



No site data available
Dorsal Image - Alate: Sarah McCaffrey
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Dorsal view - soldier: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Fontanelle: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Head above - soldier: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria



No site data available
Head Front Tangent Image - alate: Sarah McCaffrey
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Head side - soldier: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria



No site data available
Lateral Image - Alate: Sarah McCaffrey
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Lateral view - soldier: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria



No site data available
Mandibles Image: Sarah McCaffrey
Museum Victoria



Australia: Queensland, Gatton, 1976. det. R. Yule
Pronotum - soldier: Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker
Museum Victoria

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