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Online Training Available

<https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Additional Resources

University of Florida
Extension Publications

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and
Around Structures

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

PMU Focus - Identifying Termites

In last month's issue, we reviewed the basics of identifying termite damage. This month we will review how to identify drywood and subterranean termites.



Fig 1. Swarming eastern subterranean termites. Photo: UF, J. Castner

Subterranean vs. Drywood Termites

It is important to correctly identify the *type* of termite infesting a structure. Physiological differences between subterranean and drywood termites, such as differences in their moisture requirements, impact where each type of termite can be found in a structure and the kind of treatment options available. Moisture is a conducive condition for subterranean termites because they are more prone to desiccation than drywood termites, which partially explains why subterranean termites usually are found in contact with soil or other material that holds moisture. (Tip: moisture meters can help you during a subterranean termite inspection by identifying damp areas where subterranean termites may be found). Drywood termites, however, do not require contact with soil and are in areas of a structure that are relatively dry. Incorrectly identifying termites can lead to improper and illegal product applications, that will likely result in control failures, increased company and applicator liability, and litigation. Below are a few tips to aid in termite identification.

Ants or termites?

Ants and termites are commonly mistaken for each other. If you are treating for termites, eliminate the possibility that you are dealing with ants.



Fig 2. Termite alate (left) and ant alate (right). Alate is the reproductive form of a social insect with wings.

- Waist: Termites have a broad waist. Ants have a constricted, or pinched, waist (Fig 2).
- Antenna: Termites have beaded (moniliform) antenna. Ants have elbowed (geniculate) antenna (Fig 2).
- Wings: Termites have equal-sized fore- and hind wings. Ants have longer forewings than hind wings (Fig 2).

Termites: Drywood or Subterranean?

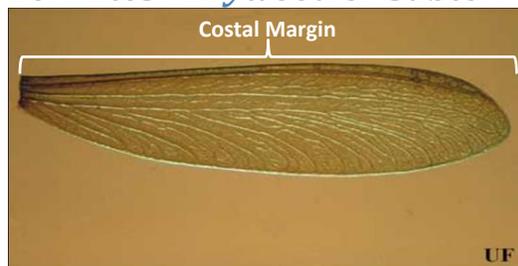


Fig 3. Subterranean termite wing with two "veins" along the leading edge (costal margin). Photo: UF, N. Y. Su and R. H. Scheffrahn

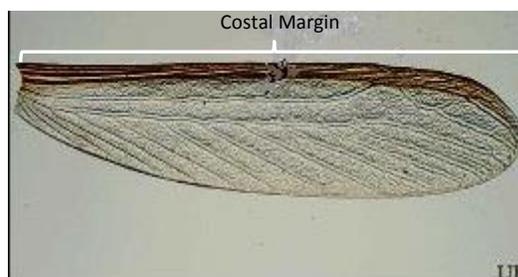


Fig 4. Drywood termite wing with three or four "veins" along the leading edge (costal margin). Photo: UF, R. H. Scheffrahn

- Soldier mandibles: Subterranean termite soldiers have smooth mandibles (Fig 5). Drywood termite soldiers have

"teeth" on the mandibles (Fig 6).



Fig 5. Subterranean termite soldier with smooth mandibles. Photo: UF, J. Castner



Fig 6. Drywood termite soldier with "teeth" on the mandibles. Photo: UF, R. Scheffrahn

- Soldier pronotum: Subterranean termite soldiers have a pronotum that is narrower than the width of their head (Fig 7). Drywood termite soldiers have a pronotum that is wider than their head (Fig 8).

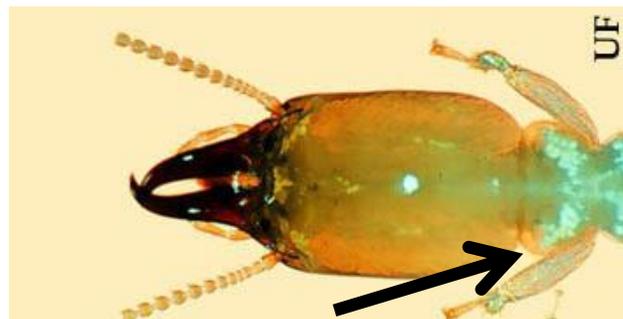


Fig 7. Subterranean termite soldier with pronotum narrower than head. Photo: UF, R. Scheffrahn



Fig 8. Drywood termite soldier with pronotum wider than head. Photo by R. Scheffrahn

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

If you plan on taking the [State Certified Operator examination](#) through PMU, please submit your applications by:

Sept 8 for the Oct 17 PMU [State Exam](#) for Termite and WDO
(Write "**PMU NOV WDO**" on the top line of the state application)

Oct 1 for the Nov 7 PMU [State Exam](#) for GHP
(Write "**PMU OCT GHP**" on the top line of the state application)

May Offerings

Foundations of Ornamentals Management (NEW!)

Date: May 14-16, 2014

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

Registration fee: \$375

Learn how to properly ID common southern trees and shrubs, monitor and diagnose pest and maintenance problems, ID beneficials, calibrate and operate different pesticide application equipment, and impress your instructors with your landscape IPM expertise.

[Register here](#)

Foundations of General Household Pest Management

Date: May 28-30, 2014; Wed-Fri

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

Registration fee: \$375

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM. Class duration: 2.5 days.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, fire ant and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU's house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS.

[Register here](#)

June Offering

Foundations of Termite Management

Date: June 18-20, 2014

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

Registration fee: \$375

Learn how termites exploit over 50 building construction elements and how to treat them in a hands-on environment in 2-days instead of 2 years.

- Practice doing a DACS vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS before a crisis occurs.
- Hear about the top 10 reasons technicians get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
- Get more in-depth information on termite biology and behavior as well as product label navigation. Class duration: 2.5 days.

[Register here](#)

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Click on links for course descriptions or go to <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses>

WDO category

July 30, 2014, [Termite Basics](#). Anyone in sales, office management, or brand new to the industry, this is the course for you.

Oct 15-17, 2014, [Termite Masters](#), **must** have taken Foundations

Dec 3-5, 2014, [Termite Expert](#), **must** have taken Foundations and Masters

GHP Category

July 31, 2014, [GHP Basics](#) . Anyone in sales, office management, or brand new to the industry, this is the course for you

Nov 5-7, 2014, [GHP Masters](#), **must** have taken Foundations

L&O Category

Please contact Dr. Eileen Buss (eabuss@ufl.edu, (352) 273-3976) directly with questions concerning these courses.

Sept 24-26, 2014, [Turf Foundations. Doing turf work? This is a must have course.](#)

Learn more from IFAS



- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each Florida's sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).
- If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find the office near you please visit: <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/ma>

