

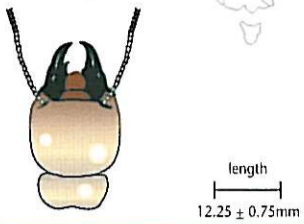


Subterranean Termite Identification




Mastotermes darwiniensis

- Subterranean type
- Occurring north of Tropic of Capricorn
- Length $12.25 \pm 0.75\text{mm}$
- Primary colony with budding-off habit results in major damage within short periods
- Workings can appear massive in their excavation of timber with large amounts of earthen material covering activity





length
 $12.25 \pm 0.75\text{mm}$




Coptotermes sp.

- Subterranean occurring Australia wide
- Identification of soldier caste can be assisted by size, nesting habits and region of species occurrence
- All species of this genus have mandibles present and produce a milky latex material called "exudate" from a pore on the head called a "fontanelle"
- Workings can be hard mud packing, often a lighter colour than surrounding soil
- Some species will form sub nests within buildings but primary Queen and colony are not mobile
- Colonies of this genus are large
- The genus contains the most widespread and thereby destructive species





Coptotermes lacteus

There are three main species of importance:
Coptotermes acinaciformis
Coptotermes frenchi
Coptotermes lacteus




Coptotermes acinaciformis

- Occurring Australia wide
- In tropical regions (Cairns) will form mounds
- Can be identified from soldier caste and workings
- Length $5.8 \pm 0.8\text{mm}$
- Colonies in trees have mud pack above nest
- Will form sub-colonies in buildings and will mud pack in and around timber damage
- Workings can appear fluted in areas of active feeding






length
 $5.8 \pm 0.8\text{mm}$



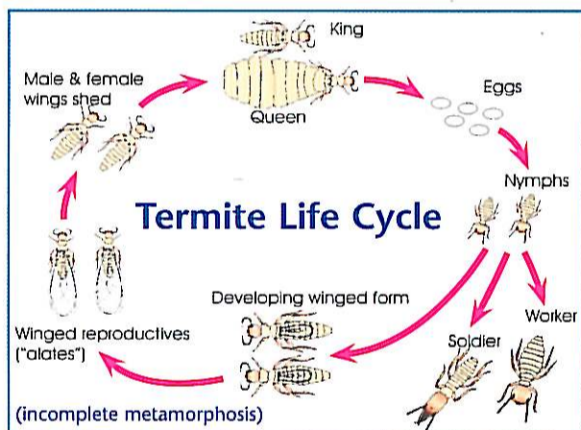
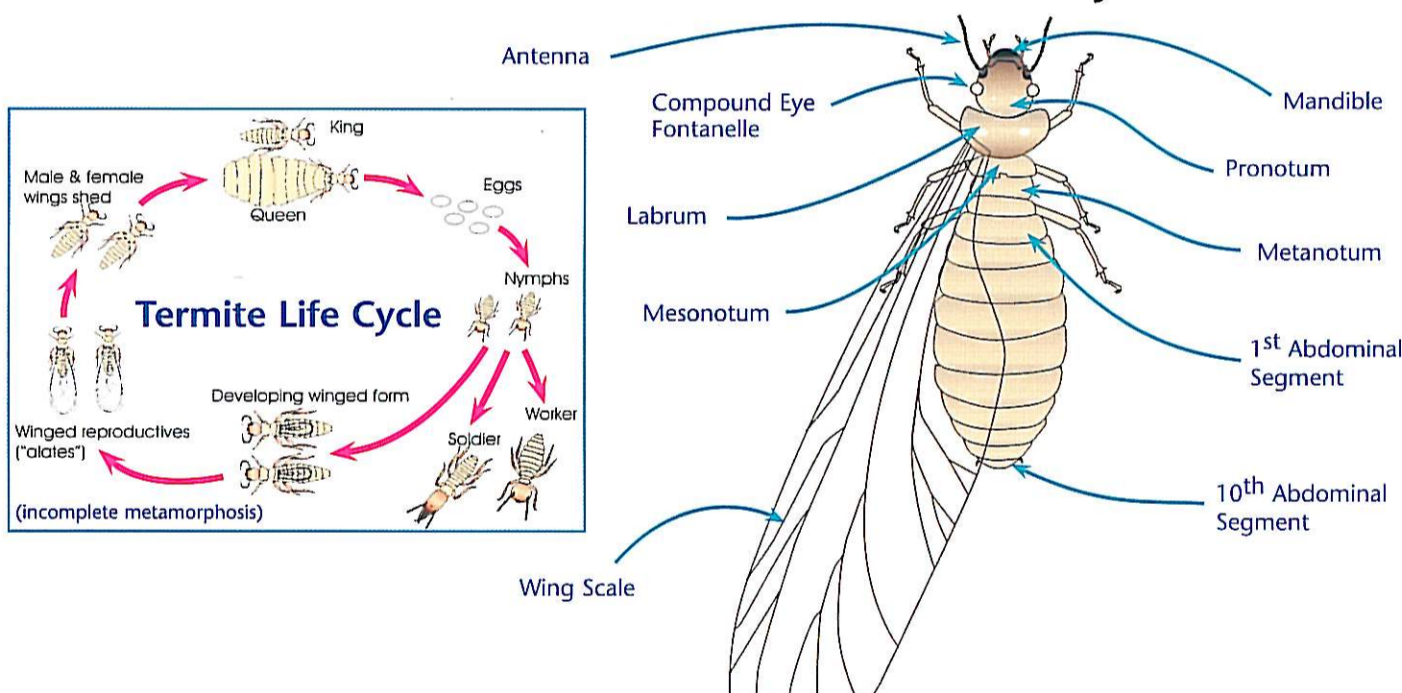
Coptotermes frenchi

- Mostly occurring in eastern States and South Australia
- Mature soldiers and workers smaller than *Coptotermes acinaciformis*
- Length $4.60 \pm 0.6\text{mm}$
- Colonies in trees have no mud pack above nest
- Will evacuate high timber workings during hot/dry periods
- Sub nests in buildings also form mud pack
- A major pest species around Canberra

length
 $4.6 \pm 0.6\text{mm}$

ISOPTERA Termites Anatomy External



Of 300 or so species of termites only 20 or so are of some level of economic importance in their region of occurrence.

SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES*

- Mastotermes darwiniensis* - only one species in this genus.
- Coptotermes* spp.
- Schedorhinotermes* spp.
- Nasutitermes* spp.
- Microcerotermes* spp.
- Heterotermes ferox*

DRYWOOD TERMITES

- Cryptotermes* spp.
- Cryptotermes brevis*, an introduced species - government controlled.

DAMPWOOD TERMITES

- Parotermes adamsoni*
- Neotermes insularis*

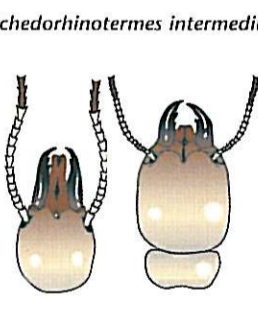
*Shown on this chart

Differences between ants and termites

Ant.....
Antennae elbowed
Compound eyes
Constriction between thorax and abdomen


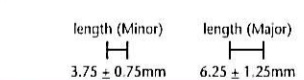


Soldier termite.....
Antennae bead like
No eyes
No constriction between thorax and abdomen





Schedorhinotermes intermedius

- Colonies often in tree stumps and root crown area
- Nests can form under in-fill patios, under houses and timber buried in ground, ie retaining walls
- Colonies are partially mobile as Queen is able to relocate
- Workings rather brittle compared to *Coptotermes* and appear darker than surrounding soil
- Timber can be fully excavated with the void mud-packed
- In timber workings the soldiers are less numerous than workers
- Above ground workings often brittle

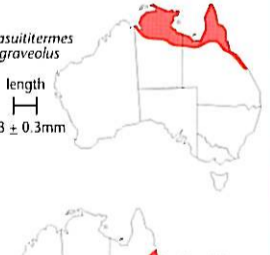



length (Minor) $3.75 \pm 0.75\text{mm}$ length (Major) $6.25 \pm 1.25\text{mm}$




Nasutitermes sp.

- Occurring Australia wide
- Mound/arboreal type nests
- Each species has its own region of occurrence
- All species in this genus have "nasute" soldiers (head drawn to a point - with fused mandibles)
- Most destructive species of sound timber in service is *Nasutitermes exitiosus*
- Majority of this genus preferring hardwoods
- Sub-colonies in buildings often formed from supplementary Queens
- Identification from soldier caste with assistance from worker, nest habit and region of occurrence




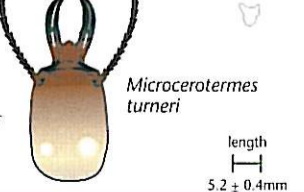
Nasutitermes graveolus length $4.3 \pm 0.3\text{mm}$

Nasutitermes walkeri length $6.0 \pm 1.0\text{mm}$

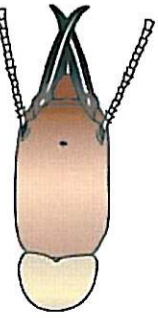


Microcerotermes sp.

- Occurring Australia wide
- Each species with its own region of occurrence
- Mound/arboreal type nests
- All species in this genus have soldiers with serrations present on the inner margins of the mandibles
- Soldier castes are not numerous in workings with workers having an elongated abdomen
- Identification can be from soldier caste and worker
- Colonies are readily exposed, often causing damage to deteriorated timber in contact with the ground
- Mounds and arboreal nests appear the same colour as surrounding soil

Microcerotermes turneri length $5.2 \pm 0.4\text{mm}$





Heterotermes sp.

- Occurring throughout Australia south of the Tropic of Capricorn
- Several species

Most often encountered is

Heterotermes ferox

- Identified from soldier caste having mandibles present without serrations
- Length $4.75 \pm 2.00\text{mm}$
- Species of this genus do not build mounds but form small colonies adjacent to other termite species alongside stumps, logs and rotting wood

length $4.75 \pm 2.00\text{mm}$



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