

Formosan Subterranean Termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*)



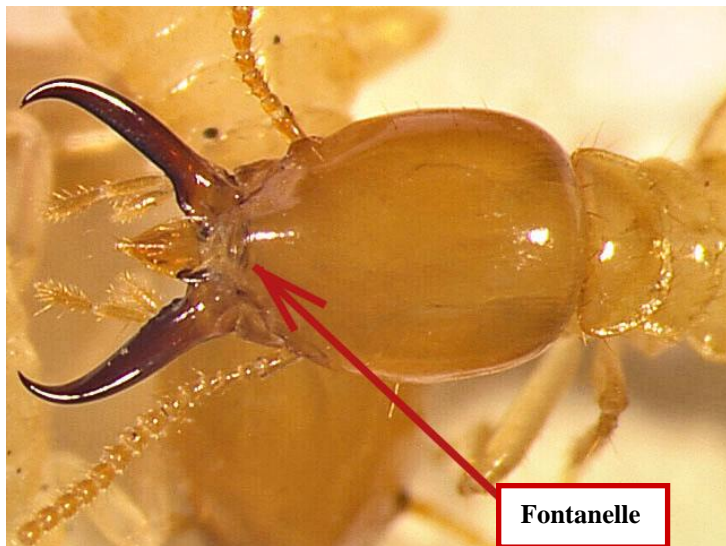
Soldiers and workers



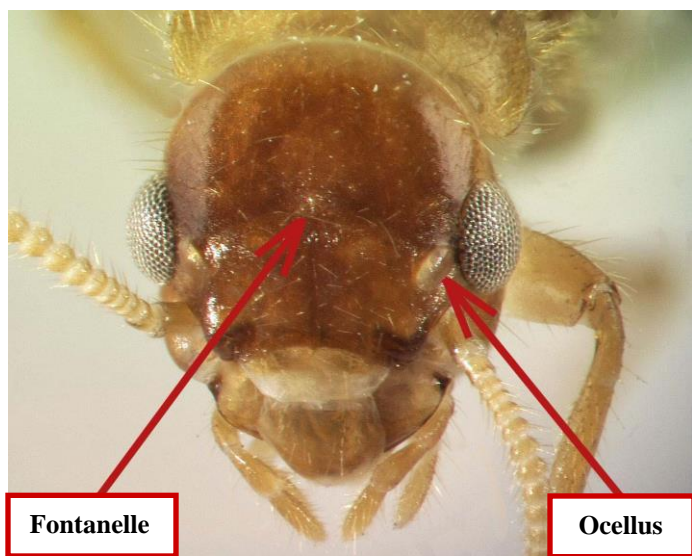
Winged reproductive (alate)

Distribution: Native to China. Established in several tropical and subtropical regions of the world. In the U.S.: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Recorded in some southern counties of California.

Field ID: Reproductives (alates) (about 12-15 mm long, including wings) have yellowish-brown bodies. Wings are pale, translucent, and covered with numerous fine hairs. Basal part of the wing with 2 strong veins. Head with relatively large ocelli and a small fontanelle. Soldiers have cream-colored bodies and light brown, oval heads. Mandibles are long, curved with no teeth. When defend their colony, soldiers emit a white sticky secretion from fontanelle (located at the anterior margin of the head). Workers are difficult to distinguish from other termite species and are of little value for identification.



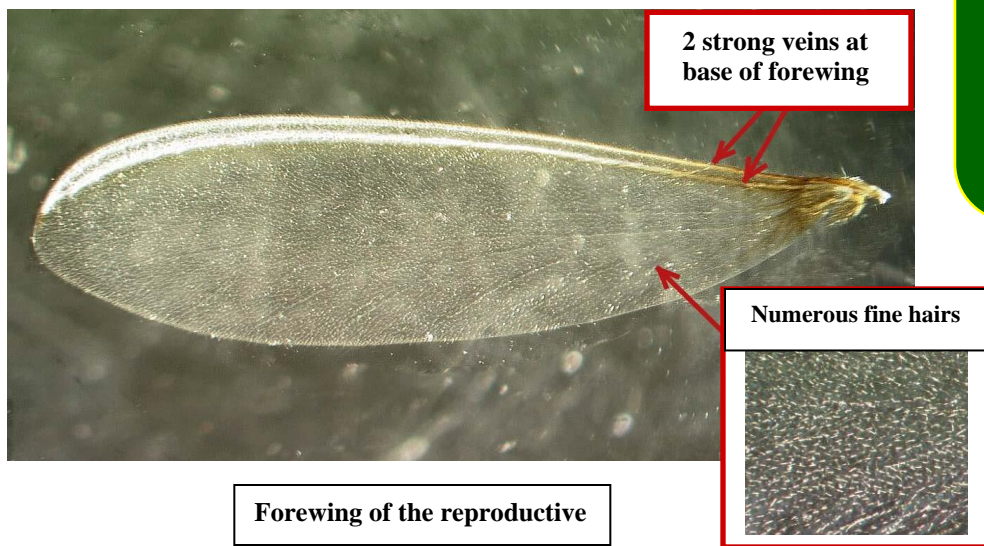
Head of the soldier



Fontanelle

Ocellus

Head of the reproductive



2 strong veins at base of forewing

Numerous fine hairs

Forewing of the reproductive

Damage: One of the most destructive structural pests in the U.S. Known to attack various wood products, as well as many living trees and shrubs.

Large colony size (several million individuals), long foraging range (<100 m), and high reproductive activity (<1000 eggs per day) make *C. formosanus* a serious threat to infested buildings. Colonies are typically located in the ground with galleries extending into surrounding wood. Aerial infestations (with no soil connection) can be found in places where adequate moisture and food are available.