

Scientific name: *Coptotermes gestroi*

Common name: Asian subterranean termite

Organism type: Insect

Description: The soldiers of *C. gestroi* are similar to those of *C. formosanus*. Both species have a large fontanelle (large opening on the forehead), when viewed from above, both also have a tear drop-shaped head. The soldiers of these two species may be separated as:

- *C. gestroi* soldiers have one pair of hairs near the rim of the fontanelle and the lateral profile of the top of the head just behind the fontanelle shows a weak bulge.
- *C. formosanus* has two pairs of hairs that originate around the fontanelle and the lateral profile of the top of the head just behind the fontanelle do not show a weak bulge.



The alates of these two species may be separated as:

- *C. gestroi* combined body and wing length 13-14 mm, maximum head width 1.4 mm; colour on head, pronotum, and dorsal abdomen dark brown.
- *C. formosanus* combined body and wing length 14-15 mm, and maximum head width 1.5 mm; colour on head, pronotum, and dorsal abdomen entirely a lighter yellow-brown or orange-brown.

Behavior and Reproduction: After swarming and landing on the ground, the alates break off their wings and search for a mate. Once a mate is found the male and female search for a crevice in damp ground or wood, hollow out a small chamber, and crawl inside. The pair, now known as the king and queen, mate and within a few days the queen starts laying eggs, approximately 15-30 eggs. Within two to four weeks, young termites hatch from the eggs and are fed by the king and queen. One to two months later, the queen lays the second batch of eggs which would be eventually nursed by termites from the first egg batch. It may take three to five years before a colony reach substantial number to cause severe damage and produce alates.

Occurs in: natural forests, planted forests, urban areas – an urban pest

General impacts: Like other structure-infesting species of *Coptotermes*, damage resulting from a *C. gestroi* infestation can become severe in a relatively short time, especially when a structure is invaded by a large, mature colony. Dispersal flights, foraging tubes, or damage are usually the first indications of an infestation. Advanced stages of infestation are indicated by the incorporation of nest material (carton) in hollowed wood or existing structural voids.

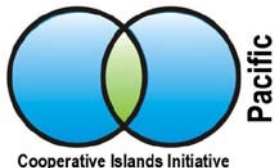
Management Information: The same management techniques used for *C. formosanus* should be employed. Please use the following link to find more information on management http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/formosan_termite.htm#mana

Range:

Native range: Endemic to Southeast Asia.

Pacific range: In 1932 it was collected from the Marquesas Islands. In late 2009 a termite infestation was reported on Lautoka, Fiji. Surveys conducted indicated the presences of these termites in the rural and suburban areas of Lautoka that run from Natabua to Vitogo. In 2010 the species was confirmed to be *Coptotermes gestroi*

For more information relating to this species please visit: <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/termites/havilandi.htm> or <http://www.padil.gov.au/viewPestDiagnosticImages.aspx?id=296>



<http://www.issg.org/cii/PII/>

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