

Dampwood Termites

Order: Isoptera

Family: Hodotermitidae

Genus/Species: *Zootermopsis angusticollis*

Description: Adult workers, immature nymphs and soldier termites are wingless with grayish-yellow to white body, red to brown headed and 1/2 "to 1" long. Soldiers have large brownish heads and long dark mandibles. Antennae have at least 23 segments; they look like a thread of beads. Bodies do not have defined waists like carpenter ants. Winged adults are 25mm long including wings.

Habitat: Wooded areas on rotting stumps and moist fallen trees. Mostly above ground. Rotting wood structures. They mostly exist where timbers are in direct contact with the soil, but may occur where wood stays wet from poor drainage or faulty plumbing

Life Cycle: Incomplete metamorphosis consisting of 3 stages: egg, immature nymph and adult termite. When a colony becomes well-established, "Kings and Queens" with wings are produced. After a colony is at least 3 years old, winged dampwood adults swarm together in the air in late July and October. They pair up, shed their wings and look for a suitable location.

Economic Importance & Management: Termites damage structures and wood products by eating wood. Termites are the most destructive insect pest that eats wood. Dampwood termite control is related directly to moisture control. Improve ventilation under the building and correct other moisture related conditions. If moisture conditions cannot be corrected, wood should be replaced with pressure treated lumber. If you are in need of a Pest Control Operator, refer to the "PNW Insect Management Handbook - Log and Structural Pests" for suggestions on finding a competent pest control operator.

References: *Petersons Field Guide to Insects* Borror/White
Bugs of Oregon and Washington John Acorn
The Audubon Society Field Guide to Insects & Spiders Lorus & Marjery Milne
PNW Management Handbook
Photos: Terminix

