

# A Bug's Life Subterranean termites

*Reticulitermes species*

## Fun facts

- Social insects with specific castes with various forms and functions
- Perform critical role in ecosystem by breaking down cellulose for food
- Live in the soil and require high level of moisture
- Mating swarms occur annually
- Infestations go unnoticed until renovations

## Identification

Signs: Feeding damage to wood, cardboard and anything cellulose, mud frass (excrement) packed into galleries in place of wood, mud tubes

Worker: Cream-colored, soft-bodied no eyes, straight antennae

Soldier: Like worker but with large, rectangular, orange head with large mandibles/jaws

## Identification continued...

Alate: Black body, straight antennae, no distinct waist, may have 4 wings of equal size and shape

## Management

- Contact a few professional companies to inspect home and provide quote for treatment
- Options usually include liquid termiticide barrier or bait stations

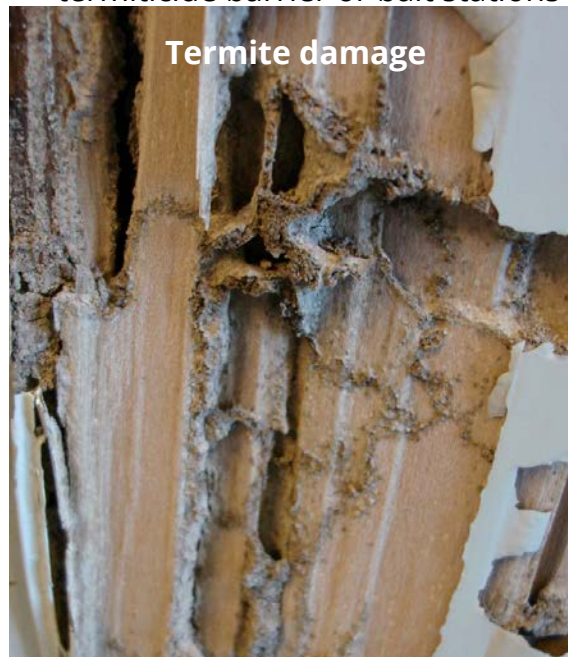


Alate



Soldier

Worker



Termite damage

Photos: J. Green