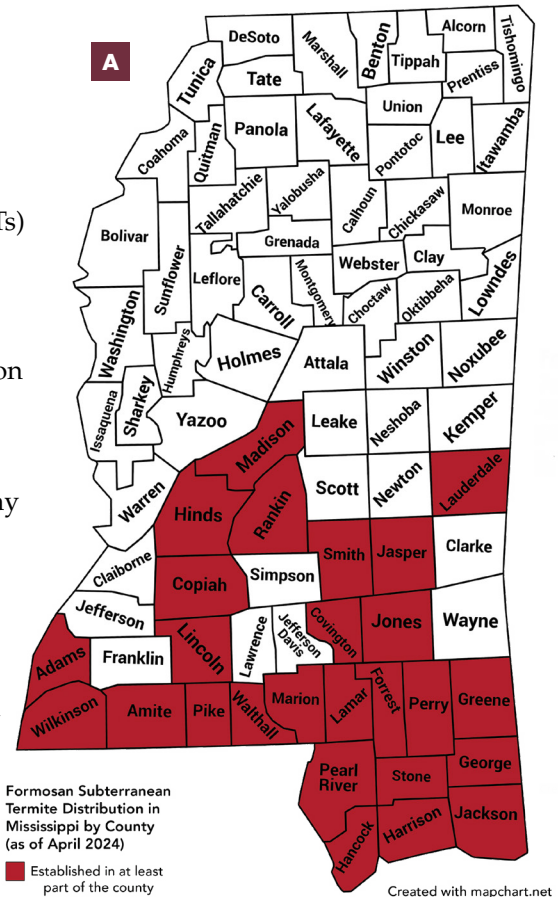


Mississippi PMP

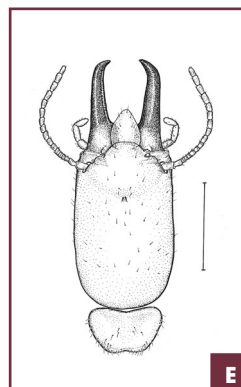
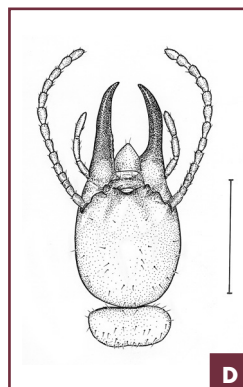
An Extension Series for Pest Management Professionals

PEST SNAPSHOT: Formosan Subterranean Termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*)

- As of April 2024, Formosan subterranean termites (“Formosans”) are known to be established in at least part of 26 Mississippi counties (A) and have been found sporadically in six other counties as far north as DeSoto County, suggesting they could potentially be encountered by a PMP **anywhere in Mississippi**.
- Alates (“swarmers”): Yellowish-brown with dark heads (B), typically larger (about ½ inch with wings) than our native Eastern subterranean termites (ESTs) and related species. Nighttime swarmers that are highly attracted to light. In Mississippi, Formosans swarm from May to June, while ESTs swarm from February to May. Formosans and ESTs both possess two distinct veins on the leading edge of wings; however, Formosans also have numerous small hairs on the wing that are easily seen with magnification (C).
- Soldiers: Teardrop-shaped head (D) as compared to the rectangular, blocky head of ESTs (E). Formosan soldiers make up a higher percentage of the colony (about 10%) than ESTs (about 2%), so you will notice more.
- Formosan carton nests (F) are often high, near a moisture source, and can be difficult to detect. Cartons allow Formosans to break contact with the soil for moisture, which renders traditional soil termite treatments ineffective. Spray foam insulation can hide leaks and infestations, making inspection and treatment more difficult.



For more information, visit <https://extension.msstate.edu/termites>.



Submit samples collected outside of the “established” range (red counties) to the MSU Extension Insect ID Laboratory (extension.msstate.edu/insects/insect-identification).

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