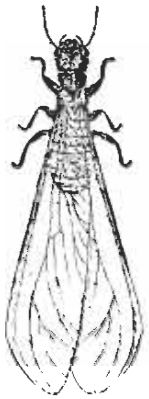


LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM NO. 13

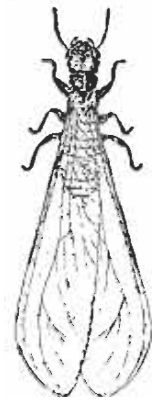
SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE SWARMERS

INTRODUCTION

This informational program is being sent out at this time to proactively address a looming problem regarding the swarming of subterranean termites in the near future in and around district property. More detailed information on subterranean termites can be found in LAUSD Pest of the Month Program No. 2 dated February 27, 2003.

As you are aware, we have been, and are continuing to experience heavy rains in Los Angeles County in 2004. Most of this rain is occurring late in the season towards the end of February and into March. This rainfall is likely to be followed shortly thereafter by warm weather. This will provide ideal conditions for heavy swarming of subterranean termites. The rains have been intense enough to percolate further into the ground and stimulate subterranean termite colonies that moved deeper in the soil to reach moisture and avoid drought conditions. Rains that fall in December and January are usually not quickly followed by warm weather and they are generally not conducive to heavy subterranean termite swarming the following spring. The precipitation scenario we are experiencing at this time of year is very likely to produce heavy subterranean termite swarming early this spring.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP WHEN SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES SWARM INSIDE A BUILDING.



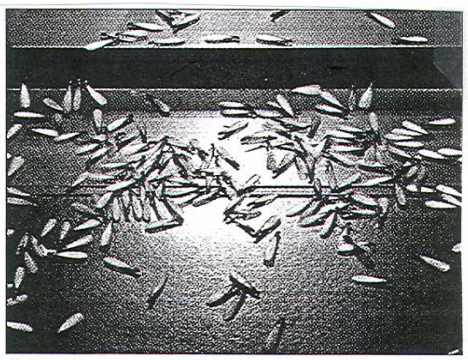
Subterranean termite swarmers are small insects about 8 to 9 mm long with black bodies and four equal transparent wings (see pictures on next page). When they emerge from a termite colony indoors, they generally fly towards visible daylight that is usually found at a glass window or door because they are trying to go outside. When they are unable to exit a structure, many of the swarmers will break off their wings resulting in wings being present all over the area. Swarming termites are fragile insects that **do not bite, sting, or carry any diseases**. However, when swarmers emerge indoors and are flying about, they will alarm occupants and create **a nuisance problem**. The quickest and easiest solution this problem is to **vacuum** the swarmers and remove them from where they are causing a problem. If you can locate the hole, crack, or opening from which they are emerging, you can quickly seal the exit with pieces of duct tape or non-toxic, water-based silicone caulking material as appropriate. This will prevent swarmers from continuing to emerge and create an on-going nuisance situation. After you have done the above, you can request that your plant manager place a trouble call to LAUSD Pest Management Department for assistance with the problem. A technician will be dispatched to assess and evaluate the situation and determine how best to take care of the termite problem.

Sometimes LAUSD Pest Management Department may make a decision to use a borate product to treat subterranean termites on LAUSD property. Although borates are regarded as reduced risk products, this type of treatment must be done when no one is around at the treatment site/area (a people-free time/day). This will require special scheduling and arrangement. Also, please be advised that borates are slow-acting materials and it takes time for them to achieve maximum effectiveness. It is not uncommon for subterranean termite swarmers to emerge from an area that has been recently treated with a borate material. This should not be interpreted to mean that the treatment has failed and retreatment is necessary. It simply means that the material was not there long enough to achieve total effectiveness.
Swarming by subterranean termites is a natural biological phenomenon that has been going on for millions of years. We need to learn how to handle this situation and deal with it in such a way that it does not disrupt the learning environment. Thank you for your help and cooperation in preserving and protecting the learning environment.

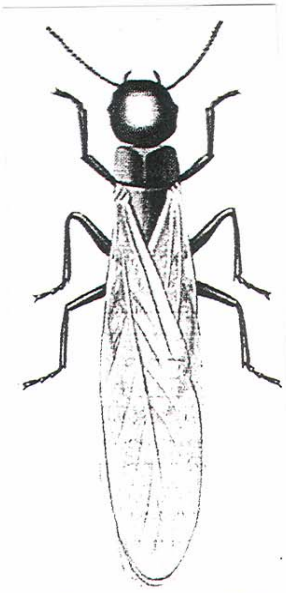
Prepared by Dr. Hanif Gulmahamad, LAUSD IPM Coordinator
Date: March 4, 2004.
Issue: Number 13

David J. Shetlar

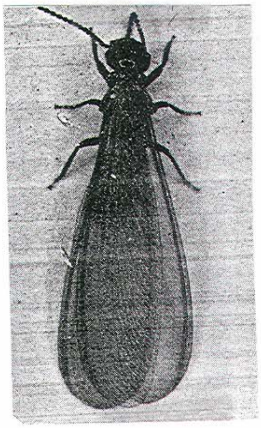
Winged termites.

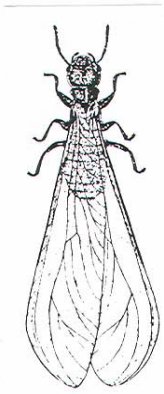


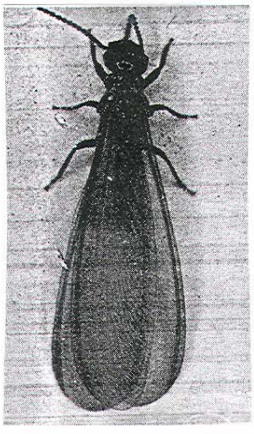
Subterranean termite swarm.

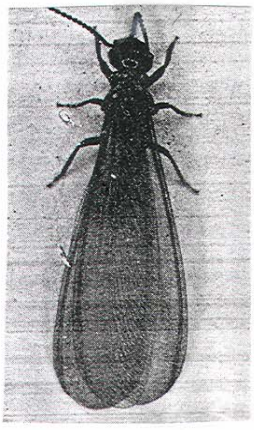


Winged adult termite.









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