**NOTE**

**New Flight Distances Record for Alates of *Odontotermes formosanus* (Isoptera: Termitidae)**

Jian Hu, Jun-Hong Zhong and Wei-Liang Xiao

Guangdong Entomological Institute, Guangzhou 510260, China

J. Entomol. Sci. 45(4): 385-387 (October 2010)

**Key Words** alate termites, flight distances, *Odontotermes formosanus*, mark-recapture

In the south of China, the black-winged subterranean termite, *Odontotermes formosanus* (Shiraki), is the most serious pest species in levees, dams, and floodwalls (Huang et al. 2000, Pg. 317 in *Fauna Sinica, Insecta, Vol. 17, Isoptera*, Science Press, Beijing; Hu et al. 2006, Sociobiology 48: 661 - 672). This species can build large subterranean cavities at a depth of 1 – 3 m inside soil levees and dams, and the tunnel can be as large as 0.06 m in diameter (Li et al. 2004, Acta Entomol. Sin. 47: 645 - 651). Its complex tunnel systems can cause leakage, seepage, and erosion, which can eventually lead to the breakage and collapse of levees (Yang et al. 2009, Environ. Entomol. 38: 1241 - 1249).

Previous investigation indicated that termite colonies are initiated mainly through the act of swarming and dispersal (Li and Huang 1991, Sci. Technol. Termites 8: 18 - 23; Thorne 1996, Sociobiology 28: 253 - 261). Information on how far alates are capable of flying from a dispersal point (i.e., its 'flight distance') is important to better understand its impact and to determine the effectiveness of control tactics. This is especially true in area-wide management within the maximum flight distances that may prevent new colony foundation in a soil levee area.

In contrast to well-known, long distance and high altitude flying insects, adult termite alates are known as weak dispersal insects (Pan 1999, Termite Research 146 - 150). It has been estimated that alates of *O. formosanus* can travel several hundreds of meters at heights of tens of meters (Li 2002, Pg. 428 in *Termites and Their Control in China*, Science Press, Beijing). However, many flight estimates were conducted and recorded by visual observation of active swarms (Shi et al. 1987, Entomol. Knowl. 24: 337 - 343; Liu et al. 1998, Pg. 94 in *Biology and Control of Termites in China*, Publishing House of Chengdu Science and Technology University, Chengdu; Pan 1999, Termite Research 146 - 150), possibly limiting the reliability of the results. This paper reports on the flight distances of alates of *O. formosanus* using the mark-recapture method. The objectives of the study were to (1) estimate how far alates of

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1Received 30 November 2009; accepted for publication 20 February 2010.
2Address inquiries (email: zhong@gdei.gd.cn).