

# N O T E

## Formosan Subterranean Termite (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae) Established in Grand Bahama<sup>1</sup>

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The Formosan subterranean termite, *Coptotermes formosanus* Shiraki (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae), is a significant invasive pest that originates from southern China (Kistner 1985, *Sociobiology* 10: 93–104) and Taiwan (Li et al. 2009, *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am.* 102: 684–693). It is one of the most widely distributed and destructive subterranean termite pest species in the world (reviewed by Evans et al. 2013, *Annu. Rev. Entomol.* 58: 455–474). It typically is found in warm, humid areas in temperate to subtropical regions within latitudes 35°N and 35°S (Su and Tamashiro 1987, *Biology and Control of the Formosan Subterranean Termite*, Univ. Hawaii, 3–15).

To date, *C. formosanus* has not been formally reported from the Caribbean Basin. An online search (16 June 2017) lists a single report of *C. formosanus* in the Caribbean (CABI/EPPO 2008, *Distribution Maps of Plant Pests*, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, Map 710), but this U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) record is in error since CABI's bibliographic reference (Su et al. 2003, *Am. Entomol.* 49: 20–32) describes a bait study targeting *Heterotermes* sp. on St. Croix, with only ancillary information regarding *C. formosanus*. Furthermore, *C. formosanus* is not reported in the two most recent termite surveys in the USVI (Nalepa and Jones 2002, *Sociobiology* 39: 155–163; Scheffrahn et al. 2003, *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am.* 96: 181–201).

An invasive congener, *Coptotermes gestroi* (Wasmann), the Asian subterranean termite, is more widely distributed than *C. formosanus* and occurs on many islands throughout the Caribbean (Evans et al. 2013). *Coptotermes gestroi* is endemic to

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