

PACIFIC DAMPWOOD TERMITE

Class	Order	Family	Genus	Species
Insecta	Isoptera	Termopsidae	<i>Zootermopsis</i>	<i>angusticollis</i>



Range:	Pacific coast states such as Montana, Idaho, N Nevada, Oregon, N California and Washington. Less damaging species found in areas of SW U.S. and S Florida
Habitat:	Damp and decaying timber, forests particularly near water
Niche:	Detritivorous, terrestrial
Diet:	Wild: wood, moist logs and stumps Zoo:

Special Adaptations: Termites can't digest wood on their own but rely on protozoan and bacteria in their gut to break down cellulose. Both male and female swarmers excavate a chamber, they enter, and the chamber is sealed. They mate and within about 2 weeks, eggs are laid and the colony is founded. The queen lays about 12 eggs. The second batch is laid the next spring.

Other: These are the largest termites in N. America. Dampwood termites are eusocial insects who live in colonies and they divide the labor among the castes. There is no worker caste in dampwood termites and the nymphs perform all the tasks typically done by workers. Dampwood termites do not create shelter tubes as with subterranean termites. The appearance of timber damaged by this species can be varied but they always eat across the grain, consuming both spring and summerwood. This makes a series of chambers or galleries connected by tunnels whose walls are smooth as though they are finely 'sandpapered'.

This species will attack wood of all types throughout its range. Timbers in contact with the soil or structures built near or over water are common targets. This species is known to be very tolerant of moist conditions, even being found in pilings subject to tidal flooding. Colony size varies but may contain as many as 4,000 individuals.

Source:

<http://www.termite.com/termites/pacific-damp-wood-termite.html>

