

ISOPTERA-TERMITIDAE

ETYMOLOGY: "*iso*" meaning equal and "*ptera*" meaning wings

COMMON NAME: Termites

Characters

- ✓ Pale, elongate bodies, and are sometimes called "white ants."
- ✓ Reproductive individuals have two pairs of membranous wings, all of equal length.
- ✓ Termites shed their wings after mating.
- ✓ Have chewing mouthparts.
- ✓ Antennae are roughly the length of their heads.

Classification

Hemimetabola - incomplete development (egg, nymph, adult)

Orthopteroid - closely related to Blattodea and Mantodea

Major Families

Rhinotermitidae (Subterranean termites) -- These insects build nests in the soil and generally infest wood that is in contact with the ground.

Hodotermitidae (Rottenwood termites) -- Generally found inhabiting moist wood. Contact with the soil is not a requirement.

Kalotermitidae (Drywood and dampwood termites) -- These insects nest in the wood itself and do not require contact with the soil.

Termitidae -- This is the largest family of termites worldwide.

Termitidae

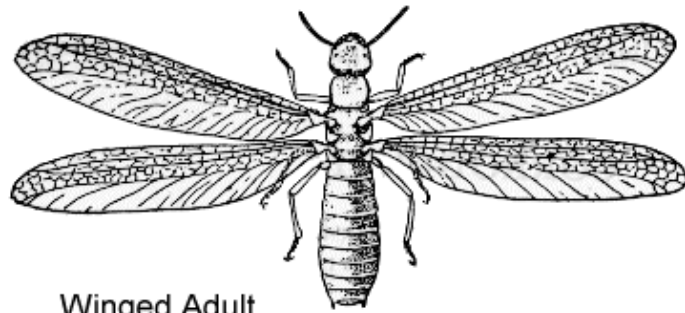
Physical Features



Soldier



Worker



Winged Adult

	Immatures (Workers & Soldiers)	Adults (Reproductives)
1.	Body pale in color, somewhat ant-like in appearance but with a broader junction between thorax and abdomen	Body may be darkly pigmented
2.	Compound eyes small or absent	Compound eyes present
3.	Head large and cylindrical or small and round	Head well-developed, with chewing mouthparts and beaded antennae
4.	Antennae beaded	Two pairs of membranous wings, all similar in shape and size; wings are shed after mating
5.	Mouthparts chewing; sometimes with large mandibles	

