

TERMITE INFESTATION (INSECTA, ISOPTERA) IN AN AREA OF ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION AND THEIR CONTROL

¹MARCELO RICARDO GOMES, AND

²ANA MARIA COSTA-LEONARDO

¹Sam Controle Ambiental, Rua Antônio Fidelis 43, Lapa, São Paulo, Brazil.

e-mail: marcelo@samcontoleeamibiental.com.br

²Depto. Biologia, Univ. Estadual Paulista - UNESP, Av. 24-A, 1515, C. postal 199, Bela Vista, 13506 900,
Rio Claro, São Paulo, Brazil

In order to understand the characteristics of the termite infestation and suggest management measures aiming to their control, inspection in 53 households in a residential condominium located in the Ecological Park of Serra do Guararú (Rainforest), in Guarujá, Brazil was held in October 2010. Currently the condominium has 354 households, with great potential for expansion in the next years. The inspection service was carried out by taking as basis the request of the owners through the association of homeowners in the condominium. Visual inspection were conducted inside and outside each household, including trees located around the buildings and in the lots of land. This inspection was aimed at analyzing the materials attacked by the termites, the sites favorable for their occurrence, to check the degree of infestation and to collect subsidies that could assist in developing strategies to control the termites. *Nasutitermes* sp., *Microcerotermes* sp., *Coptotermes gestroi*, and *Cryptotermes* sp. were observed. Thirty nine households showed termite infestations with a predominance of *Nasutitermes* spp. followed by *C. gestroi*. Although there was a predominance of *Nasutitermes* spp. especially in houses located close from the forest, the more severe damages were caused by subterranean termites, which occurred more frequently in houses close to the beach. Several materials showed termite damaged such as furniture made of rattan, structural woods and decorative parts (panels, ceilings, door frames and floors), straw mats, and pool tables. Management adopted in the infested houses was the application insecticides on wood and on the soil, but control failures instigate to study new techniques for termite control in ecological preserved areas.

Key Words Subterranean termites, dry wood termites, management, environment