

Entomology 101 - Insects and People

Urban Entomology - Structural and Stored Product Pests

Urban Entomology - a subdiscipline of entomology that looks at insects in urban and suburban environments (as opposed to agricultural)

Urban problems include:

1. structural pests
2. household and stored product pests
3. nuisance pests - especially when medical concerns are involved

Management personnel

Pest Control Operators (PCO's) - often take an insecticide and not biological approach - often necessary
Lawn maintenance (garden) personnel
Cooperative Extension

Structural Pests

1. Termites (Isoptera)
 - a most devastating pest
 - social insects
 - reproductives
 - workers
 - soldiers
 - primarily tropical and subtropical in distribution
 - feed on cellulose with aid of internal gut protozoans
 - a. subterranean
 - must be in contact with soil (require high moisture content) - "plaster" tubes
 - white, smaller (1/8 inch)
 - b. drywood
 - do not require soil contact
 - look for fecal pellets
 - c. prevention (especially, but not exclusively, subterranean)
 - remove all stumps, roots, plant material from yard
 - remove all wood construction debris
 - avoid wood/soil contact
 - use treated wood at soil/wood interface
 - allow for ventilation
 - make annual inspections

2. Carpenter Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Camponotus)
 - do not feed on wood but use it as a colony site -in nature, carpenter ants are important predators and decomposers
 - social insects
 - usually introduced into an area with wood products
 - parent and satellite colonies
 - nocturnal, follow paths between parent and satellite colonies

Household and Stored Product Pests

- often brought into the home with food stuffs or containers
- anthropogenic species
- problem with continual reinfestation

1. Cockroaches
 - primarily subtropical and tropical
 - nocturnal
 - omnivorous feeders
 - most species with eggs enclosed in oothecae
 - German, Brown-banded, and American cockroaches
 - control is primarily through sanitation with judicious use of insecticides