

Directions For Submitting Insect Samples For Identification

SAMPLE CONTAINER

When submitting samples for identification, it is important to send them in a container that will insure their arrival in a condition that allows for examination. Samples should be placed in a container with rubbing alcohol and tightly sealed so as to make sure that container does not leak in shipping. This is especially true for soft-bodied insects like termites. **NOTE: It is imperative that postal service personnel are notified of the presence of alcohol in the shipping container.** Figure 1 shows examples of containers to send these samples in. If the container does not seal tightly place the container into a zip-lock bag.



Figure 1

CONTAINER PACKAGING



Figure 2

in a dry envelop will result in the specimen drying out to the point that the organism falls apart and hinders identification.

In all cases, the important factor to consider is whether the specimen arrives intact and not crushed. It is best to insert the sample container into a protective tube or box, with packing material added to protect it (Figure 2). Placing a specimen in a zip-lock bag with alcohol-moistened cotton balls will insure that

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

they stay moist, but this method of shipping, as well as the dry envelope, allows the specimen to be crushed under a pile of other mail.

The more information provided with a specimen, the better! Important information includes the date the sample was take and the location (urban or rural, address, site location information such as under rocks, on plants, and what type of plant, if known, bedroom or kitchen, etc.). This aids in the identification and in supplying appropriate biology or management information. It is important to provide your name, address, telephone number, email, other information in order for us to send the identification of the specimen back to you. The following page is a form to aid you in providing us with the information that we will need to make a proper identification of the sample.

Insect (or Damage) Identification Form

REFER TO THE INSTRUCTIONS ON "SAMPLE SUBMISSION" FOR PREPERATION AND SHIPMENT OF MATERIAL FOR IDENTIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

MATERIAL SENT BY:

Name: _____
Business: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____
Date: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

INFORMATION DESIRED:

____ Family ____ Genus ____ Species
____ Common Name ____ Distribution
____ Biology ____ Control

DEGREE OF INFESTATION:

____ Light ____ Moderate
____ Heavy ____ Unknown

DISTRIBUTION OF INFESTATION:

____ Local ____ Unknown
____ Widespread Over County

INFORMATION ON SPECIMENS:

Locality:
City: _____
County: _____
Date Collected: _____
Host or Habitat:
____ Feeding on Plant
Kind: _____
Part: _____
____ Feeding on Animal
Kind: _____
____ Found in Structure
Where: _____
____ Other: _____

Send Form and Sample(s) To:

IF BY STANDARD MAIL (USPS):

Center for Urban & Structural Entomology
Department of Entomology
Texas A&M University
2143 TAMU
College Station, Texas 77843-2143

IF SENT OVERNIGHT (FedEx, UPS, etc.):

Center for Urban & Structural Entomology
Texas A&M University
Agronomy Rd, Building 1051, RM 100
College Station, Texas 77843-2143