

Recruit[®] HD Research Site Summary

Foraging Distance

Location: New Orleans, LA

Termite Species: Formosan Subterranean Termite (*Coptotermes formosanus*)

Background:

New Orleans has significant problems with Formosan termites infesting old historic trees, which makes it a great location for testing the Sentricon[®] System. At this site, there were six trees – four of which were infested with Formosan termites. The two groupings of trees were separated by over 300 feet. DNA testing was conducted to determine the interrelatedness of the colonies. This practice is used to confirm colony elimination, but in this study, it provided new insights into how far termite colonies forage.

Baiting and DNA Testing:

Sentricon stations were installed around the base of the trees. Baits and stations were inspected on a monthly basis. Researchers monitored bait consumption and collected termites anywhere they were found (stations, trees, etc.) during each monthly visit.

Results:

Foraging Distance: Two Formosan colonies were attacking the four trees in this study. Three of the trees (located 76 feet, 335 feet and 340 feet apart) had the same colony attacking them. That means this particular colony was stretching beyond the length of a football field! We don't know how far past those trees the colony may have actually been foraging, but we can confidentially say that the termite colony foraged at least 340 feet. Thanks to the DNA and point measurements collected during the study, we now have clear scientific evidence to answer the common question – “how far can a termite colony forage.”

Power of Sentricon: Three of the trees had termites from the same colony, but only two of the stations at the trees (the trees located 76 feet apart) showed signs of feeding. No bait feeding occurred in the stations next to the tree which was located 335 feet and 340 feet from the other two trees. Colony elimination was confirmed at the two trees where the feeding took place. Elimination was also confirmed at the third tree where feeding did not take place. This means, the Recruit[®] HD bait successfully eliminated a massive colony which stretched over a football field in length and likely had millions of workers.

Site map showing the location of the trees in this study and where the Sentricon® stations were placed.



Overview: DNA confirmed a foraging footprint greater than a football field in length – the same colony fed on Trees 2, 3, and 6. This site also demonstrated that a massive termite colony was eliminated, despite termites only feeding on stations located at Trees 3 and 6, not Tree 2. This is field validated, DNA confirmed data that shows the power of the Sentricon® System - a massive colony spread over a distance greater than a football field was eliminated.