

## A SMALL, DARK-COLORED NEW *KALOTERMES* FROM GUATEMALA

By THOMAS E. SNYDER, *Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine,*  
*U. S. Department of Agriculture*

All except one species of the subterranean termites of the genus *Reticulitermes* Holmgren which damage the woodwork of buildings in the United States are dark-colored. The non-subterranean termites of comparable size are all light-colored, except *Kaloterme milleri* Emerson, of the Florida Keys and Jamaica. A recent interception of winged and soldier termites in a log from Guatemala by inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at San Francisco, Calif., proves to be another small, dark-colored *Kaloterme* and is new. Both *milleri* and this new species *nigritus* superficially resemble, and might be mistaken by the layman for, species of *Reticulitermes*. They are the only small, dark-colored species of *Kaloterme* (s. str.) occurring in the Americas; *milleri* is the smallest known species of *Kaloterme* (s. str.) and *nigritus* is not much larger. The description of this new species follows.

### *Kaloterme nigritus*, new species

*Winged adult*.—Head dark shining castaneous brown to blackish, lighter colored at posterior margin, longer than broad, with scattered long hairs. Eye black, not round, angular, separated from lateral margin of the head by a distance a little less than the long diameter of the eye and from the posterior margin by a distance equal to over two diameters of the eye. Ocellus suboval, close to eye. Labrum yellow brown.

Antenna yellow brown, with 14-15 segments, third segment large, dark-colored, somewhat modified, and longer and darker than second or fourth segment.

Pronotum of same color as head, broader than long, broadly, roundedly emarginate anteriorly, and more sharply emarginate posteriorly, with scattered long hairs.

Legs with femora dark castaneous brown, tibiae yellow brown, claws with pulvillus.

Wings dark-colored, costal veins with golden tinge, hairs on upper margin and surface. Median vein slightly closer to subcosta than to cubitus, unbranched to apex, subcostal veins with 6 (mostly long) branches to subcosta. Cubitus in about center of wing, branched to apex, with 11 main branches to lower margin.

Abdomen castaneous brown, with long hairs at base of each tergite.

#### *Measurements:*

Length of entire winged adult.....	7.50-8.00 mm.
Length of entire dealated adult .....	5.00-5.25 mm.
Length of head (to tip of labrum) .....	1.18-1.25 mm.
Length of pronotum (to anterior corner) .....	0.70-0.75 mm.



Length of forewing .....	5.00-5.50 mm.
Length of hind tibia .....	0.70-0.75 mm.
Diameter of eye (long diameter) .....	0.19-0.25 mm.
Width of head (at eyes) .....	0.95-1.00 mm.
Width of pronotum .....	0.95-1.10 mm.
Width of forewing .....	1.45-1.50 mm.

The winged adult of *Kalotermea nigritus* is close to *K. milleri*, but in *milleri* the third segment of the antenna is small and there are only 13, not 14 or 15, segments. The tibiae are darker colored in *nigritus*, and the wing membrane is hyaline in *milleri*, not dark as in *nigritus*. The imago of *nigritus* is somewhat larger than *milleri*. A. E. Emerson believes *nigritus* to be distinct.

*Soldier*.—Head light castaneous brown, darker anteriorly, sides nearly parallel, nearly flat, with a slight slope and depression at the epicranial suture, with scattered long and short hairs. Eye spot white, suboval, elongate. Gula narrow in middle, half as wide as at front.

Antenna yellow brown, with 10-11 segments, third segment dark castaneous brown, modified, as long as the fourth and fifth segments together.

Mandibles black, stout at base, slender, pointed and incurved at apex. Left mandible with two somewhat blunt, marginal teeth or a molar at the apical third, and a sharper pointed tooth near base. Right mandible with a molar near base.

Pronotum yellow-brown, lighter posteriorly; anterior margin denticulate or roughened, broadly and roundedly emarginate, corners high and rounded; posterior margin slightly emarginate, with long and short hairs.

Legs yellowish white, femora swollen.

Abdomen yellowish gray, with long hairs at the base of each tergite.

#### Measurements:

Length of entire soldier .....	5.75-6.25 mm.
Length of head with mandibles .....	2.75-2.90 mm.
Length of head to anterior .....	1.75-1.90 mm.
Length of left mandible .....	1.00-1.15 mm.
Length of pronotum .....	0.75-0.77 mm.
Length of hind tibia .....	0.76-0.88 mm.
Width of head .....	1.18-1.25 mm.
Width of pronotum .....	1.13-1.25 mm.

The soldier of *nigritus* has a broader head and wider gula than in *milleri*, and the marginal teeth of the mandibles differ.

*Type locality*.—Guatemala.

Described from a series of 12 winged adults, 4 nymphs, and 2 soldiers intercepted at San Francisco, Calif., in a log of *Guajacum officinale* in cargo of the S. S. Makawao, by C. H. Oatridge, May 21, 1945, No. 19228.

<sup>1</sup>Later interception of soldiers (12 segments to antennae) from San Jose, Pacific Coast of Guatemala.



*Cotypes, winged adults*, U. S. National Museum, Catalogue No. 57718; *comorphotypes, soldiers*, U. S. National Museum. Also types in collection of A. E. Emerson, Department of Zoology, University of Chicago.

---

MINUTES OF THE 563d REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

April 4, 1946

The 563d regular meeting of the Society was held at 8 o'clock in the Auditorium of the U. S. National Museum. President Weigel presided and there were 38 members and 39 visitors present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Society was privileged to see "The Story of Rocky Mountain Fever," a film prepared at the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana, under the direction of R. R. Parker. In his introductory talk Lt.-Col. C. B. Philip spoke of the excellent work done by N. J. Kramis who organized the film for presentation. Lt.-Col. Philip also made explanatory comments as the picture was shown.

In answer to questions by Sollers, Anderson, Trembley, and others, Lt.-Col. Philip made the following statements. The vaccine used in prophylaxis confers active immunity for only about one year, although if taken for several consecutive years some tissue immunity will develop. There is seldom a severe reaction unless the egg vaccine is given to a person allergic to eggs. At present, the time required by the laboratory tests necessary to prove infection in a given tick makes them of little aid in prompt diagnosis. The rash characteristic of the disease is never present without other symptoms. It is difficult to compare the virulence of different strains accurately, since there is greater mortality among older people. More younger people are infected in the East. In the West the fever is largely an occupational disease and only about ten per cent of adults have been immunized. DDT is not satisfactory against ticks, and no really good repellent has as yet been developed. A tick does not infect its host until about 12 hours after attaching. The percentage of infected ticks is small under natural conditions. The serum used for the treatment of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is an active anti-serum. Its efficiency depends on the speed with which diagnosis is made and treatment started. In the average case, there are no sequelae following recovery.

President Weigel next asked for reports from members who had attended the St. Louis meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. M. P. Jones reported that, at the meetings of the Extension Entomologists, the bulk of the discussion concerned the purposes for which each speaker would approve the use of DDT. It was



Snyder, Thomas Elliott. 1946. "A small, dark-colored new *Kaloterme*s from Guatemala." *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 48, 158–160.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54654>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/54063>

#### **Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

#### **Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Entomological Society of Washington

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.