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## EFFICACY OF TERMITE BAITS FOR AREA-WIDE CONTROL OF SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA AND MOBILE, ALABAMA

The Formosan subterranean termite is a structural pest of major economic importance throughout the southeast United States. Structures in the French Quarter and throughout New Orleans has had a long history of severe termite pressure from *Reticulitermes* spp. and the Formosan subterranean termite, *Coptotermes formosanus*. Since *C. formosanus* was first confirmed in New Orleans in 1966, infestations of this termite have become a threat to the structural integrity of many historic structures, some of which date back to the early 1700's. Wood was and continues to be abundantly used in construction. Structures are often connected or in close proximity to adjacent structures. In addition, limited soil access around structures can make it difficult to effectively treat a structure with a liquid termiticide, often reducing its ability to protect structures. Termite baits containing an insect growth inhibitor (0.5% noviflumuron and 0.5% noviluron) has been extensively used by the City of New Orleans for control of subterranean termites in public buildings as well as by the pest management industry in private properties. Baits use small amounts of insecticides that are targeted to the termite by the design of the system. Valuable information about the population density of termite colonies in New Orleans and has made a significant contribution to the ongoing efforts of termite management in the French Quarter and in the State of Louisiana. In 2017, members of the City of New Orleans were given the unique opportunity to assist the city of Mobile to protect some of their historic buildings from termite attack in an area-wide project. Results of area-wide termite projects will be presented.

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