

## SECTION II

### *Wood-Destroying Insects*

Wood is the single most important building component of most single-family dwellings and of many commercial buildings. The wood may be associated with the structural integrity of the building, or it may be used as a decorative feature associated with the structure. This section covers those insects that attack finished wood or lumber in these buildings. The technician is faced with fewer pests than in the general pest-control section; however, locating the pest entry point can be difficult when dealing with termites. These insects can enter a building from their subterranean habitat, and the resulting infestation may go unnoticed for long periods of time. Even if one is not dealing with an active infestation, the potential for problems still exists, especially when making renewal inspections. Keep these things in mind while studying this section.

Insects that damage wood fall into three different families in the class, Insecta. These three orders contain some 21 species as indicated in the following outline:

#### **Order: Isoptera (termites)**

- Family: Rhinotermitidae - subterranean termites
  - Reticulitermes flavipes* - eastern subterranean termite
  - Reticulitermes virginicus*
  - Coptotermes formosanas* - Formosan subterranean termite
- Family: Kalotermitidae - drywood termites
  - Incisitermes schwarzi*
  - Incisitermes snyderi*

#### **Order: Coleoptera (beetles, wood boring)**

- Family: Lyctidae - powder post beetles
  - Lyctus brunneus* - brown powder post beetle
  - Lyctus linearis* - European lyctus
  - Lyctus parallelopedus* - velvety lyctus
  - Lyctus planicollis* - southern lyctus
  - Lyctus cavicollis* - western lyctus
- Family: Anobiidae
  - Anobium punctatum* - furniture beetle
  - Xestobium rufovillosum* - death watch beetle
- Family: Bostrichidae
  - Xylobiops, sp.*
- Family: Cerambycidae
  - Hylotrupes bajulus* - old house borer

#### **Order: Hymenoptera (ants and bees)**

- Family: Formicidae - carpenter ants
  - Camponotus pennsylvanicus* - black carpenter ant
  - Camponotus rasilus*
  - Camponotus castaneus*
  - Camponotus americanus*
  - Camponotus ferruginea*
- Family: Anthophoridae - carpenter bees
  - Xylocopa virginica*

*The above list is not a complete list of wood-destroying insects; however, it is representative of the group. These species are all common to Mississippi as well as the entire southeast.*

