

**FIRST REPORTS OF DAMAGES IN BRANCHES AND TRUNKS IN AVOCADO TREE PLANTATIONS CAUSED BY *Neotermes castaneus* Snyder IN HAVANA CUBA.**

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Several species of termites are dangerous pests in the tropical and subtropical regions, since they destroy woody plants of succulent tissue and wood. These sociable insects live in colonies; their feeding necessities can produce considerable economic losses. The damaged plants very often show in the injury a cinnamon or whitish-reddish colour or both, while branches and trunk are significantly affected by tunnels; the attack of these insects is favoured by droughts, fungal infections and weed infestation. *Neotermes castaneus* S is the insect reported in the avocado plantations of the Scientific Technological Base Unit of Alquizar, from the Research Institute on Tropical Fruit Trees, located in the south of the Province of Havana. It is a big insect from family Kalotermitidae, order Isopteran, which bores tunnels in live wood and causes significant damages in trees; previous reports of this insect did not exist in avocado orchards located in the west area of the country.