

1 Running head: Scheffrahn et al.: Invasive termite *Coptotermes gestroi* on Grand Cayman

2 Please address correspondence to:

3 Dr. Rudolf H. Scheffrahn

4 University of Florida

5 Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center

6 3205 College Avenue, Davie, Florida, U.S.A. 33314

7 Phone: 954-577-6312, FAX: 954-475-4125

8 E-mail: rhsc@ufl.edu

9  
10 Financial contact for invoice: Same

11

12 **Proliferation of the invasive termite *Coptotermes gestroi* (Isoptera:**  
13 **Rhinotermitidae) on Grand Cayman and overall termite diversity of**  
14 **the Cayman Islands**

15

16 Rudolf H. **Scheffrahn**<sup>1\*</sup>, Hartwig H. **Hochmair**<sup>1</sup>, Francesco **Tonini**<sup>2</sup>, Jan **Křeček**<sup>1</sup>, Nan-Yao

17 **Su**<sup>1</sup>, Peter **Fitzgerald**<sup>3</sup>, Kieran **Hendricken**<sup>3</sup>, James A. **Chase**<sup>4</sup>, John **Mangold**<sup>4</sup>, and Jeremy

18 **Olynik**<sup>5</sup>

19 <sup>1</sup> University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center

20 Davie, Florida 3314, USA

21

22 <sup>2</sup> North Carolina State University, Center for Geospatial Analytics, Raleigh, North Carolina

23 27695, USA

24

25 <sup>3</sup> Pestkil, Grand Cayman KY1-1106, Cayman Islands

26

27 <sup>4</sup> Terminix International, Memphis, Tennessee 38120, USA

28

29 <sup>5</sup> Cayman Islands Government, Department of Environment, Grand Cayman KY1-1002, Cayman

30

Islands

31

32

\*Corresponding author; E-mail: rhsc@ufl.edu

33

34 **Abstract**

35

36 The Asian subterranean termite, *Coptotermes gestroi*, was discovered on Grand Cayman Island  
37 in 2000 and, by 2014, had been recorded from 102 land-based localities. These data were used  
38 in a hierarchical cluster analysis to identify homogeneous clusters of sites to estimate separate  
39 introduction points on the island. Results suggest four different introductions of *C. gestroi* to  
40 Grand Cayman by boat and one by land transport from other previously infested parts of the  
41 island. The infestations by boat could either be primary introductions (originating from another  
42 island) or secondary introductions (originating from other previously infested parts of Grand  
43 Cayman). An individual-based model was used to simulate non-anthropogenic spread of *C.*  
44 *gestroi* over Grand Cayman from 2014 to 2050. The model predicts that by 2050, most of the  
45 western part of Grand Cayman will likely be heavily infested by *C. gestroi*, while patches of  
46 unsuitable habitat restrict the expansion of the species over the central and eastern parts of the  
47 island. In the absence of further human introductions, it will likely take a century for *C. gestroi*  
48 to saturate the island by natural dispersal only. Based on detailed termite diversity surveys, we  
49 provide updated records for 14 termite species, collectively, on Grand Cayman, Little Cayman,  
50 and Cayman Brac.

51

52 Key Words: *Coptotermes gestroi*; cluster analysis; individual based spread model; Little  
53 Cayman; Cayman Brac

54

55 **Resumen**

56

57 [to be added after review].

58

59 Palabras Clave: [to be added after review]

60

61           The diversity and distribution of termites on the Caribbean mainland and West Indian  
62 islands have received renewed attention during the past 20 years (e.g., Scheffrahn and Křeček  
63 1999, Scheffrahn et al. 1994, 2003, 2005, 2006). The great majority of these termite species are  
64 non-pestiferous endemics that support ecosystem stability by contributing to cellulose  
65 decomposition, soil enrichment, and diet for other animals (Jouquet et al. 2011). Species of the  
66 Caribbean genera *Heterotermes* and *Nasutitermes*, however, cause significant damage to wood in  
67 service, and *Neotermes* spp. are known to occasionally damage tree crops (Constantino 2002).  
68 Two exotic species pose the greatest threat of structural damage in the West Indies (Scheffrahn  
69 et al. 2006) and beyond (Constantino 2002). The West Indian drywood termite, *Cryptotermes*  
70 *brevis* (Walker), is a long-established and broadly distributed pest in the New World owing to  
71 five centuries of anthropogenic spread from its endemic Chilean/Peruvian origin (Scheffrahn et  
72 al. 2009). The Asian subterranean termite, *Coptotermes gestroi* (Wasmann), on the other hand,  
73 is a more recent Caribbean invader first reported on Barbados in 1937 (Adamson 1938). Since  
74 then, boat infestations (Scheffrahn & Crowe 2011) have facilitated the spread of *C. gestroi* along  
75 the coasts of tropical Florida (Hochmair & Scheffrahn 2010) and numerous West Indian islands  
76 (Fig. 1).

77           Grand Cayman Island, along with Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, are British Overseas  
78 Territories. Grand Cayman is best known as a tourist destination and banking center with a high  
79 standard of living. The island has a commercial seaport in George Town, and in line with its  
80 strong local economy and resort destination status, the island is a noteworthy Caribbean yachting  
81 center with ample dockage and boat servicing facilities. Several waterfront neighborhoods have  
82 their own private marine dockage. As part of a prosperous resort-driven economy, pest control  
83 services on Grand Cayman are available for treatment of household and structural pests

84 including termites. Until 2000, no *C. gestroi* populations were known on Grand Cayman (data  
85 herein). Therefore, the first land-based infestation on the island provided a unique opportunity to  
86 track the establishment and proliferation of *C. gestroi* on a single island.

87 The Cayman Islands also have a unique natural ecology which invites ongoing studies in  
88 biodiversity and conservation (Oldfield & Sheppard 1997). The first records of termites from the  
89 Cayman Islands were offered only recently by the late Smithsonian taxonomist, Margaret S.  
90 Collins (Scheffrahn et al. 1994) who, on occasion, visited the islands. Dr. Collins’  
91 encouragement to investigate the Caymanian termite fauna prompted the first West Indian study  
92 of *C. gestroi* on Little Cayman (Su et al. 2000) and the taxonomy of the genus *Cryptotermes*  
93 (Scheffrahn & Křeček 1999) and *Procryptotermes* (Scheffrahn & Křeček 2001) occurring on  
94 these islands.

95 In this paper, we analyze 14 years of spatial occurrences of *C. gestroi* on Grand Cayman  
96 to estimate marine and overland introduction sites and predict the future distribution range of this  
97 pest. We also provide new termite records from field surveys of all three islands.

98

## 99 **Materials and Methods**

100

### 101 ESTABLISHMENT OF *C. gestroi* ON GRAND CAYMAN

102

103 In July 2000, one of us (PF) collected the first sample of *C. gestroi* at Rum Point on  
104 Grand Cayman. From then on, PF and KH, working as Pestkil Ltd., a principle Caymanian  
105 termite inspection and pest control service provider, amassed *C. gestroi* samples or records from  
106 customer inspection calls and termite treatments. Samples were sent to RHS to confirm

107 identification. Although two other pest control companies operate on Grand Cayman, Pestkil has  
108 ca. 85% of the termite inspection and control market (PF pers. comm.). The spatial distribution  
109 of the *C. gestroi* localities was used to estimate the number of both boat and overland  
110 introduction sites. Termite collection dates, however, could not be used to determine  
111 colonization dates because termite discovery dates may lag actual colonization by several years.  
112 Grand Cayman Island is divided into five districts. The 1999 annual average household income  
113 ranged between \$58,635 Cayman Is. dollars (Bodden Town in central south) and CID \$47,673  
114 (at East End), indicating a lower income toward the east. This discrepancy could cause some  
115 sampling bias since residents in the east may be less likely to call a pest control company than  
116 those in other parts of the island. However, it must be noted that in the wealthier district (Bodden  
117 Town), not a single termite incident was reported, and that the remaining districts have more  
118 comparable average annual household incomes, ranging between CI\$ 47,673 and CI\$ 54,430.

119 To determine the likelihood of boat versus overland introduction modes for *C. gestroi*,  
120 we followed the procedure of Hochmair & Scheffrahn (2010) which assessed the spatial  
121 association of marine dockage with land-borne infestations of *Coptotermes* spp. in southeastern  
122 Florida. We applied hierarchical cluster analysis to identify homogeneous clusters of Grand  
123 Cayman termite localities based on their easting and northing coordinates, and then assessed  
124 whether these clusters were located near marine dockage. If so, these clusters could indicate  
125 separate points of introduction by boat. Clusters can indicate both primary and secondary  
126 introductions. A primary introduction describes an infestation from other islands or the mainland  
127 and subsequent establishment of a base population. A secondary introduction is established by  
128 local dispersal flights of termites from a base population. For an island, the suspected source of a  
129 primary introduction is boat traffic, whereas a secondary introductions can be established by boat

130 (most likely if an infestation occurs close to dockage), or by land transport (most likely if an  
131 infestation is distant from nearest dockage). Different clusters near boat dockage can either stem  
132 from different primary introductions to the island, or be the result of fewer primary introductions  
133 (possibly even one) and subsequent distribution by local boat traffic (Scheffrahn 2013). The  
134 question of primary, secondary or multiple same-site introductions can be determined through  
135 genetic analysis of termite samples. This was not possible in this study because samples were not  
136 available from all the observed locations where locality data were reported.

137         Hierarchical cluster analysis starts with each termite collection point as a separate cluster,  
138 and then combines clusters sequentially, reducing the number of clusters with each step, until  
139 only one cluster is left. The method applies measures of dissimilarities between cases (i.e. points)  
140 when forming the clusters. In our approach, dissimilarity was expressed as the squared Euclidean  
141 distance between observed points to give greater weight on points that are further apart compared  
142 to the simple Euclidean distance. One can choose from a variety of hierarchical clustering  
143 analysis methods. Each of them includes rules that govern between which points distances are  
144 measured to determine cluster membership. Five cluster analysis methods were tested, i.e.,  
145 Ward's method, Average Linkage between groups, Average Linkage within groups, Centroid  
146 Linkage, and Single Linkage.

147         Although infestation points can be grouped into clusters, not every cluster might originate  
148 from a boat infestation. In order to determine the potential association of each cluster with a boat  
149 dockage, we first identified dockage locations on Grand Cayman that allow inter-island boat  
150 traffic. To do so the island outline polygon was overlaid with 100 m grid cells. Using the  
151 background satellite imagery provided in ESRI's ArcGIS 10.3, cells which contained a boat  
152 dockage suitable for boats of 10 m length or more (boats large enough to reach out-island



153 destinations) were visually identified and marked (shown as blue squares in Figs. 2 and 3).  
154 Furthermore, a set of 102 points were randomly placed in built areas suitable for termite habitat  
155 (Fig. 3), which is where termites are typically collected by pest control companies, as opposed to  
156 undeveloped areas where no damage is caused by termite infestation.

157         The generation of the suitability layer based on several source files is described in more  
158 detail in the spread model section below. For the generation of the random point layer, which  
159 reflects typical termite collection locations of pest treatment companies under assumed  
160 randomness, buildings were identified from the ArcGIS imagery background layer, followed by  
161 clipping suitable habitat areas to the vicinity of identified buildings. Next, distances were  
162 measured between termite localities in all clusters and the nearest marine docks (using the  
163 Spatial Join function in ArcGIS), and compared to distances obtained between random points  
164 (located in developed areas) and nearest dockages. Before this, dockage grid cells were  
165 substituted by their cell center points, which the distances were measured to. Statistical  
166 comparison of distances to dockages between the different termite location clusters and the  
167 random point set was then used to assess which cluster could originate from infestation by inter-  
168 island boat traffic, and which from infestation by land transport or local boat traffic. In addition a  
169 Monte Carlo simulation was run that repeatedly generated sets of 102 random points and  
170 computed the mean nearest neighbor (nn) distances for each of the generated point patterns. This  
171 distribution of mean nn distances was then compared to the mean nn distance obtained for  
172 observed termite sites. This was done to determine whether observed collection sites are spatially  
173 clustered differently than potential termite collection sites (i.e. built areas within suitable  
174 habitats), illustrating the effect of boat dockage on the spatial distribution of identified termite  
175 locations.

176

177 SPREAD MODEL FOR *C. gestroi* ON GRAND CAYMAN

178

179           In order to account for the local landscape within the simulation model and identify areas  
180 unsuitable for the establishment of colonies of *C. gestroi*, a combination of the following vector-  
181 type spatial layers was created using ArcMap. A 2006 land cover classification, developed by the  
182 Department of Environment was obtained. The classification was broken down into four classes:  
183 dry forest, dry shrub land, wetlands, and man-modified. The latter type includes land that has  
184 been modified in any way at any time in the past. It includes pasture, agricultural land, secondary  
185 forest, built up areas, and road allowances. The wetland class is comprised of various wetland  
186 types, such as permanently flooded grasslands, tidally flooded mangrove shrub land/forest,  
187 seasonally flooded mangrove shrub land/forest, and seasonally flooded forest. For the purpose of  
188 this study, we considered all non-forested wetland areas as unsuitable for the establishment of *C.*  
189 *gestroi* colonies, regardless of the aforementioned subdivision. Dry shrub land was also  
190 considered unsuitable for *C. gestroi* which nests in larger trees and building voids (Kirton &  
191 Brown 2003). We used OpenStreetMap street data (<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>) for the street  
192 network layer, integrated with some manual additions to include segments that were missing, and  
193 created a 10-m buffer around each line segment to model the approximate coverage of roads.  
194 Furthermore, we manually digitized bare land areas and airport grounds to combine them with  
195 the other unsuitable layers. Fig. 4 shows all the individual vector-type layers combined to obtain  
196 a single unsuitable habitat polygon layer to use in the simulation model.

197           The individual-based model by Tonini et al. (2013) was used in order to simulate the  
198 spread of *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman from 2014 to 2050. The values used in the model for

199 the main ecological parameters (Tonini et al. 2013) are shown in Table 1. Because of the  
200 stochastic nature of the model used, 100 replications were run in order to account for the  
201 uncertainty associated with the outcome of a stochastic simulation. A spatial grid with resolution  
202 of 100 x 100 m was created to be overlaid at the end of the simulation with all other replications  
203 for a given year. The set of *C. gestroi* localities were grouped in each grid cell according to the  
204 chosen value for the DEN (Maximum density of colonies per hectare) parameter, and the centers  
205 of the cells infested by at least one colony were used as a starting point for the simulation.

206

## 207 TERMITE DIVERSITY STUDIES ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

208

209 In 1996, JK surveyed termites on Grand Cayman (83 colony samples) and Little Cayman  
210 Islands (73 samples) followed by a further survey of Grand Cayman in 1999 by JC and JM (223  
211 samples), and a survey of Cayman Brac in 1999 by JC, JM, and RHS (200 samples). A few  
212 additional samples, including *Cr. brevis*, were collected on Grand Cayman by RHS in 2013.  
213 Termites were collected along roadsides and trails in as many geographically and ecologically  
214 diverse habitats as time and accessibility permitted. Termites were collected from all possible  
215 microhabitats from which colonies with brood or foragers were accessible including sound dry or  
216 decomposing wood, arboreal and epigeal nests (*Nasutitermes* and *Microcerotermes*,  
217 respectively), and in soil underneath stones and logs. Each locality (Fig. 5) is defined as map-  
218 deduced latitude/longitude position from which we searched for termites on foot, typically only a  
219 hundred meters in any direction. Specimens were aspirated and immediately transferred to vials  
220 containing 85% ethanol. Upon completion of expeditions, samples were cleaned, identified,  
221 labeled, and deposited in the University of Florida Termite Collection, Davie, Florida.

222

## 223 **Results and Discussion**

224

### 225 ESTABLISHMENT OF *C. gestroi* ON GRAND CAYMAN

226

227           Between 2000 and July 2014, Pestkil recorded 102 ground-based *C. gestroi* infestations  
228 on Grand Cayman. In July 2012, a single water-based *C. gestroi* colony was discovered on a  
229 yacht docked at a waterfront house in the Governor's Harbor neighborhood. The Single  
230 Linkage, Average Linkage between groups, and Centroid clustering methods identified the  
231 isolated termite sighting at Rum Point (located at the center north of the island, Fig. 2) as its own  
232 cluster using the smallest number of total clusters in the solution (three), whereas the two other  
233 methods (Ward's method and Average Linkage within groups) require a larger cluster number to  
234 classify this point as a separate cluster. Retaining the location at Rum Point as a separate cluster  
235 of introduction due to its far distance to the remaining termite collection points seemed to be a  
236 desirable solution. Hence the first three clustering methods would be viable options. Point  
237 assignments to clusters are identical between these three methods for the two, three, and five-  
238 cluster solutions, but slightly different for the four-cluster solution. For the illustration of the  
239 steps of the clustering process and further exploratory analysis the results of the Single Linkage  
240 method are used.

241           Starting with the set of 102 observed points the hierarchical cluster process undergoes  
242 101 cluster fusion stages. The last 8 fusion steps in the agglomeration schedule with their  
243 characteristics are listed in Table 2. The dissimilarity measure describes the squared Euclidean  
244 distance between points or centers of clusters being joined in a fusion step. A sudden increase in

245 the dissimilarity value suggests natural cutting points to determine the best number of clusters  
246 before two very dissimilar clusters are combined. Table 3 shows that, based on this criterion, the  
247 two-cluster solution is best due to the sudden increase in dissimilarity in the last stage. This can  
248 also be observed in Figure 6 where a natural break at the two-cluster solution is clearly  
249 discernible.

250 Figure 2a shows the two spatial regions resulting from the two-cluster solution. It  
251 separates termite collection points in the western half of the island from those in the east. Large  
252 boat dockages are only present in the western half of the island. Considering the large gaps  
253 between observed termite points in the western half of the island and the availability of boat  
254 dockage in various portions of that cluster makes it, however, unlikely that the termite infestation  
255 started from only one single point within this cluster and then dispersed from there. If that was  
256 the case, one could expect a more even coverage of infestation points in the affected areas  
257 without the large observed gaps in-between (Tonini et al. 2013).

258 A more realistic scenario provides the four-cluster solution, which reflects another natural  
259 cutting point shown in Figure 6. In this four-cluster solution, the different point clusters follow  
260 generally the clustered pattern of marine dockage locations (Fig. 2c) at least for the western half  
261 of the island. Therefore, this solution gives three point clusters near boat dockages, one of which  
262 is the isolated spot at Rum Point. It suggests three separate points of infestation through boat  
263 traffic and the subsequent spread of termites to the other points of each cluster. The five cluster  
264 solution (Fig. 2d) splits the cluster along the Seven Mile Beach to the west into two clusters.  
265 Each of these two new clusters (the larger one to the north and the smaller one to the south) has  
266 nearby marine docks, which makes separate introductions in those two clusters plausible. The

267 five cluster solution would therefore suggest four different introductions of *C. gestroi* to the  
268 island by boat, with at least one of them being a primary introduction.

269 One isolated cluster of termite sites, located to the south-east of the island, visually stands  
270 out since it is far from marine dockages on the island. Due to a lack of dockage in the south-east  
271 of the island this introduction occurred most likely overland, e.g. by transportation of infested  
272 timber, originating from an established population on the western half of the island. There is,  
273 however, the possibility that infestations even in this cluster stem from introduction by boat, e.g.  
274 when an infested boat anchored in close proximity to land and termite alates were flying out that  
275 day towards land. Given that termites are weak flyers which avoid dispersal flights in windy  
276 conditions (which are often found on the open sea), this scenario is very unlikely. The termite  
277 discovery dates of this isolated cluster (years 2011 and 2014) are later than termite discovery  
278 dates of clusters in the western part of the island, which are, when using the four-cluster solution  
279 from Figure 2c, 2001-2014 (cluster 1), 2003-2014 (cluster 2), and 2001 (cluster 4). This suggests  
280 that the south-eastern cluster was established (probably by land transport) after the other clusters,  
281 and thus originating from one of the other termite populations on the island. The clusters in the  
282 western portion of the island, due to their close proximity to marine dockages, can be assumed to  
283 originate from boat traffic between Grand Cayman Island and other Caribbean islands (primary  
284 introduction), or from already infested areas on Grand Cayman Island (secondary introduction).  
285 To verify the potential of infestation of the three westernmost clusters by inter-island boat traffic  
286 statistically, distances between termite sightings in all clusters and the nearest marine dock were  
287 measured. The point pattern from the four cluster solution was used for this task (Fig. 2c) instead  
288 of the five cluster solution to retain larger cluster sizes for statistical testing. Together with a set  
289 of 102 random points placed around built areas this resulted in five sets of distances to the

290 nearest marine dockage, i.e., one for each of the four clusters, and one for the random point set  
291 (Fig. 3).

292 Figure 7 visualizes how the distances to the nearest marine dockage are distributed for the  
293 previously described point sets. The horizontal line in the middle of each box indicates the  
294 median of distances for clusters 1 through 4 and the random point set, respectively. Visual  
295 inspection suggest shortest distances to marine dockage for clusters 1 (South Bay), 2 (Seven  
296 Mile Beach), and 3 (Rum Point), and largest distances for cluster 4 (South-east of island).  
297 Distances for the random point set are mostly found in-between. Descriptive statistics for  
298 distances associated with the five point sets are provided in Table 3. Sizes of the four cluster  
299 point sets vary between 90 (cluster 2), and 1 (single observation at Rum Point in cluster 3). Since  
300 sample sizes are small, a nonparametric test was used to check for significant differences  
301 between distances to the nearest marine dockage. Results show that the distances to nearest  
302 docks associated with clusters 1 and 2 are significantly shorter than the distance for the random  
303 point set (Mann-Whitney,  $n_1=5$ ,  $n_R=102$ ,  $Z=-2.568$ ,  $p<0.02$ , 2-tailed; and Mann-Whitney,  
304  $n_2=90$ ,  $n_R=102$ ,  $Z=-5.934$ ,  $p<0.0001$ , 2-tailed). For cluster 3, which consists of only one point  
305 with a distance to the nearest marine dockage of 151 m, the difference to the median distance for  
306 the random point set is not significant at a 5% level of significance (Mann-Whitney,  $n_3=1$ ,  
307  $n_R=102$ ,  $Z=-1.614$ ,  $p=0.078$ ), which is due to the low power of the test given the small sample  
308 size. The fact that the observed distances for these three clusters are shorter than distances for  
309 random points gives statistical evidence that infestations in these clusters are associated with  
310 (intra- or inter-island) boat traffic. Further, results show that the median distance to the nearest  
311 marine dock associated with cluster 4 is significantly larger than the distances for the random  
312 points (Mann-Whitney,  $n_4=6$ ,  $n_R=102$ ,  $Z=-3.943$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), suggesting that these termite

313 infestations were not introduced by inter-island boat traffic but by either local boat traffic  
314 originating from another locality on Grand Cayman island, or more likely, by land transport,  
315 given the newly constructed condominiums in that cluster region.

316         One might argue that observed clusters are not solely based on boat and overland  
317 introduction sites but caused by the patchiness of potential collection areas, i.e. built areas. To  
318 analyze whether the pattern of observed infestation points differs from built areas we first  
319 computed the mean nn distance for the 102 observed termite locations, which was 250.0m. This  
320 was followed by a Monte Carlo procedure with 100 realizations of generating 102 points that  
321 were randomly placed inside the built area polygons, followed by a mean nn computation for  
322 each generated point pattern. This resulted in the distribution of mean nn distances under the null  
323 hypothesis of termite locations being randomly distributed within built areas. Figure 8 plots the  
324 distribution of mean nn distances based on the Monte Carlo simulation (M=561.7m,  
325 SD=54.83m) and the mean nn distance of the observed termite distribution pattern (250.0m). The  
326 result indicates significant clustering of termite locations when controlling for patchiness of built  
327 areas ( $p < 0.01$ ), and therefore a different cluster pattern between observation sites and built areas.

328

329 SPREAD MODEL FOR *C. gestroi* ON GRAND CAYMAN

330

331         The outcomes of all model replications are grouped and visualized by three color-coded  
332 occupancy envelopes as described in Tonini et al. (2013). The “>0%” (yellow) occupancy  
333 envelope shows all areas predicted to be infested in one or more model replications. The  
334 “>=50%” (orange) occupancy shows all areas predicted to be infested by at least half of all



335 simulation runs. Finally, the “100%” (red) occupancy envelope shows areas that are predicted as  
336 infested by all model replications. Figure 9 shows the results of the simulation in 2050.

337 A visual inspection of the results suggests that the termite spread will proceed fairly  
338 slowly over the suitable areas in the island if no additional anthropogenic transport occurs. By  
339 2050, most of the western part of Grand Cayman will likely be infested by *C. gestroi*, while  
340 patches of unsuitable habitat restrict the expansion of the species over the central and eastern  
341 parts. In the absence of human movement, it will likely take a century for *C. gestroi* to saturate  
342 the island by natural means.

343

#### 344 TERMITE DIVERSITY STUDIES ON THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

345

346 A total of 14 termite species are now collectively known from the Cayman Islands (Table  
347 4). As a result of our surveys, three new species of drywood termites were added to the  
348 Caymanian fauna, *Cryptotermes nitens* (Scheffrahn & Křeček 1999), *Cr. spathifrons* (Scheffrahn  
349 & Křeček 1999), and *Procryptotermes edwardsi* (Scheffrahn & Křeček 2001). We now also  
350 report 15 new island records and revise their nomenclature (Table 4). Nomenclatural changes  
351 since Scheffrahn et al. (1994) are from the following subsequent synonymies: *Nasutitermes*  
352 *costalis* = *Na. corniger* (Scheffrahn et al. 2006) and *C. havilandi* = *C. gestroi* (Kirton and Brown  
353 2003), *Incisitermes tabogae* = *I. schwarzi* (James et al., 2013), and *Termes melindae* = *T.*  
354 *hispaniolae* (unpublished data, Scheffrahn). *Incisitermes milleri* was listed as *I. sp.* while *P.*  
355 *edwardsi* was incorrectly recorded as *P. corniceps* in Scheffrahn et al. (1994).

356 The Cayman Islands termite fauna has a close affinity with Cuba and Central America  
357 but with some exceptions. The endemic drywood species, *Cr. nitens* is known only from the

358 Cayman Islands and Jamaica (Scheffrahn & Křeček, 1999). An undescribed species of  
359 *Heterotermes* on Grand Cayman has a disjunctive range of populations in Jamaica, Grand Turk,  
360 Bonaire, and Florida suggesting it is been recently introduced to some of these localities  
361 (Szalanski et al. 2004). *Nasutitermes nigriceps* occurs also in Jamaica and Central America, but  
362 is replaced on Cuba by *Na. rippertii*. As on most small West Indian islands, no soil-feeding  
363 species occur on the Caymans Islands.

364 The occurrence of *Microcerotermes* c.f. *arboreus* is the most interesting biogeographical  
365 anomaly of the Cayman island termite fauna. Although *Microcerotermes* spp. are widespread  
366 throughout the Caribbean mainland, the Caymanian records for this genus are unique among all  
367 other West Indian islands with the exception of the continental islands of Trinidad and Tobago  
368 (Figure 10). This genus is in dire need of revision and we cannot be certain that the species from  
369 the Caymans is conspecific with the *M. arboreus* as described by Emerson (1925).

370

## 371 **Acknowledgments**

372

373 Many thanks to Tiago Carrijo for reviewing this paper and to Terminix International for  
374 partial support of travel expenses.

375

## 376 **References Cited**

377

378 Adamson AM. 1938. Notes on termites destructive to buildings in the Lesser Antilles. Tropical  
379 Agriculture (Trinidad) 15: 220–224.

380 Constantino R. 2002. The pest termites of South America: taxonomy, distribution and status.  
381 Journal of Applied Entomology 126: 355-365.

382 Emerson AE. 1925. The termites of Kartabo, Bartica District, British Guiana. Zoologica 6: 291-  
383 459.

384 James ER, Burki F, Harper JT, Scheffrahn RH, Keeling PJ. 2013. Molecular characterization of  
385 parabasalians symbionts *Coronympha clevelandii* and *Trichonympha subquasilla* from the  
386 Hawaiian lowland tree termite *Incisitermes immigrans*. Journal of Eukaryotic  
387 Microbiology 60: 313-316.

388 Jouquet P, Traoré S, Choosai C, Hartmann C, Bignell DE. 2011. Influence of termites on  
389 ecosystem functioning. Ecosystem services provided by termites. European Journal of  
390 Soil Biology 47: 215-222.

391 Hochmair HH, Scheffrahn RH. 2010. Spatial association of marine dockage with land-borne  
392 infestations of invasive termites (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae: *Coptotermes*) in urban South  
393 Florida. Journal of Economic Entomology 103: 1338-1346.

394 Kirton LG, Brown VK. 2003. The taxonomic status of pest species of *Coptotermes* in Southeast  
395 Asia: Resolving the paradox in the pest status of the termites, *Coptotermes gestroi*, *C.*  
396 *havilandi* and *C. travians* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae). Sociobiology 42: 43-63.

397 Oldfield S, Sheppard C. 1997. Conservation of biodiversity and research needs in the UK  
398 Dependent Territories. Journal of Applied Ecology 34: 1111-1121.

399 Scheffrahn RH. 2013. Overview and current status of non-native termites (Isoptera) in Florida.  
400 Florida Entomologist 96: 781-788.

401 Scheffrahn RH, Crowe W. 2011. Ship-borne termite (Isoptera) border interceptions in Australia  
402 and onboard infestations in Florida, 1986-2009. Florida Entomologist, 94: 57-63.

403 Scheffrahn RH, Darlington JPEC, Collins MS, Křeček J, Su N-Y. 1994. Termites (Isoptera:  
404 Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae, Termitidae) of the West Indies. *Sociobiology* 24: 213-  
405 238.

406 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J. 1999. Termites of the genus *Cryptotermes* Banks (Isoptera:  
407 Kalotermitidae) from the West Indies. *Insecta Mundi* 13: 111-171.

408 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J. 2001. New World revision of the termite genus *Procryptotermes*  
409 (Isoptera: Kalotermitidae). *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 94: 530-539.

410 Scheffrahn RH, Jones SC, Křeček J, Chase JA, Mangold JR, Su N-Y. 2003. Taxonomy,  
411 distribution, and notes on the termites (Isoptera: Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae,  
412 Termitidae) of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. *Annals of the Entomological*  
413 *Society of America* 96: 181-201.

414 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J, Ripa R, Luppichini P. 2009. Endemic origin and vast anthropogenic  
415 dispersal of the West Indian drywood termite. *Biological Invasions* 11: 787-799.

416 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J, Szalanski AL, Austin, JW. 2005. Synonymy of neotropical arboreal  
417 termites *Nasutitermes corniger* and *N. costalis* (Isoptera: Termitidae: Nasutitermitinae),  
418 with evidence from morphology, genetics, and biogeography. *Annals of the*  
419 *Entomological Society of America* 98: 273-281.

420 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J, Chase JA, Maharajh B, Mangold JR. 2006. Taxonomy, biogeography,  
421 and notes on termites (Isoptera: Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae, Termitidae) of the  
422 Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*  
423 99: 463-486.

424 Scheffrahn RH, Křeček J, Maharajh B, Chase JA, Mangold JR, Moreno J, Herrera, B. 2005.  
425 Survey of the termites (Isoptera: Kalotermitidae, Rhinotermitidae, Termitidae) of  
426 Nicaragua. Florida Entomologist 88: 549-552.

427 Su N-Y, Ban PM, Scheffrahn RH. 2000. Control of *Coptotermes havilandi* (Isoptera:  
428 Rhinotermitidae) with hexaflumuron baits and a sensor incorporated into a monitoring  
429 and baiting program. Journal of Economic Entomology 93: 415-421.

430 Szalanski AL, Scheffrahn RH, Austin JW, Křeček J, Su N-Y. 2004. Molecular phylogeny and  
431 biogeography of *Heterotermes* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae) in the West Indies. Annals of  
432 the Entomological Society of America 97: 556-566.

433 Tonini F, Hochmair HH, Scheffrahn RH, Deangelis DL. 2013. Simulating the spread of an  
434 invasive termite in an urban environment using a stochastic individual-based model.  
435 Environmental Entomology 42: 412-423.

436

437 **Table 1.** Definition of all parameters used for the spread simulation model of *C. gestroi* over  
 438 Grand Cayman island and their values.

Parameter	Definition	Values
AFP	Colony age at first production of alates	4 yr
PHR	Maximum pheromone attraction distance	3 m
DEN	Maximum density of colonies per hectare	1
SURV	Overall survival rate of alates*	0.01 (1%)*
MAR	Prevalence of male alates in the colony	0.5 (50%)
SCR	Scenario of amount of alates generated by a colony	1,000 for colony age $4 \leq \text{yr} < 9$ 10,000 for colony age $9 \leq \text{yr} < 14$ 100,000 for colony age $\geq 14$ yr
DIST	Mean dispersal flight distance	200 m

439 \* Overall percentage of alates surviving all phases of a dispersal flight

440

441 **Table 2.** Agglomeration schedule for the last 8 stages of hierarchical clustering for *C. gestroi*  
442 over Grand Cayman island using the Single Linkage method.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Clusters</b>	<b>Dissimilarity</b>
94	8	1.142
95	7	1.482
96	6	1.896
97	5	2.088
98	4	2.949
99	3	17.083
100	2	67.783
101	1	364.919

443

444 **Table 3.** Descriptive statistics of shortest distance sets to nearest marine docks (in meters) for  
445 locations of *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman island and random points.

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Random
n	5	90	1	6	102
Mean	528	1048	151	18729	3228
Std-dev	527	1030	-	301	4023
Median	302	627	151	18733	2210

446



447 **Table 4.** Localities for termites from the Cayman Islands and surrounding areas.

	<i>Cr. brevis</i>	<i>Cr. cavifrons</i>	<i>Cr. nitens</i>	<i>Cr. spathifrons</i>	<i>I. milleri<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>I. schwarzzi<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Ne. castaneus</i>	<i>P. edwardsi<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>C. gestroi<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>H. n.sp.</i>	<i>M. c.f. arboreus</i>	<i>Na. corniger<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>Na. nigriceps</i>	<i>T. hispaniolae<sup>f</sup></i>
Cayman Brac	X	X	X <sup>g</sup>		X <sup>g</sup>	X	X <sup>g</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>		X			X <sup>g</sup>
Grand Cayman	X	X	X <sup>g</sup>		X <sup>g</sup>	X	X		X <sup>g</sup>	X	X	X	X	X
Little Cayman	X <sup>h</sup>	X	X <sup>g</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>	X	X <sup>g</sup>	X <sup>g</sup>	X		X			X <sup>g</sup>
Cuba	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Jamaica	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Mainland Caribbean	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Florida	X	X			X	X	X		X			X		

448 <sup>a-f</sup> Corrected species designations from Scheffrahn et al. (1994)

449 <sup>g</sup> Island species records from this study

450 <sup>h</sup> Not recorded but presence highly likely

451 FIGURE CAPTIONS

452

453 **Fig. 1.** *Coptotermes gestroi* localities in the greater Caribbean Basin (Source: UF Termite  
454 Collection).

455

456 **Fig. 2.** Hierarchical cluster analysis with two (a), three (b), four (c), and five (d) clusters for *C.*  
457 *gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.

458

459 **Fig. 3.** Collection localities for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island and 102 random points.

460

461 **Fig. 4.** Vector-type layers used to obtain a surface of unsuitable habitat for *C. gestroi* on Grand  
462 Cayman Island.

463

464 **Fig. 5.** Termite sampling localities from UF termite collection (For purposes of space, the  
465 geographic positions of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac not related to that of Grand Cayman).

466

467 **Fig. 6.** Plot for the Single Linkage Clustering method for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.

468

469 **Fig. 7.** Plot for the Single Linkage Clustering method for distances to the nearest marine dockage  
470 *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.

471

472 **Fig. 8.** Distribution of mean nearest neighbor distance obtained from Monte-Carlo simulation  
473 with 102 randomized points placed in built areas within suitable habitats.

474

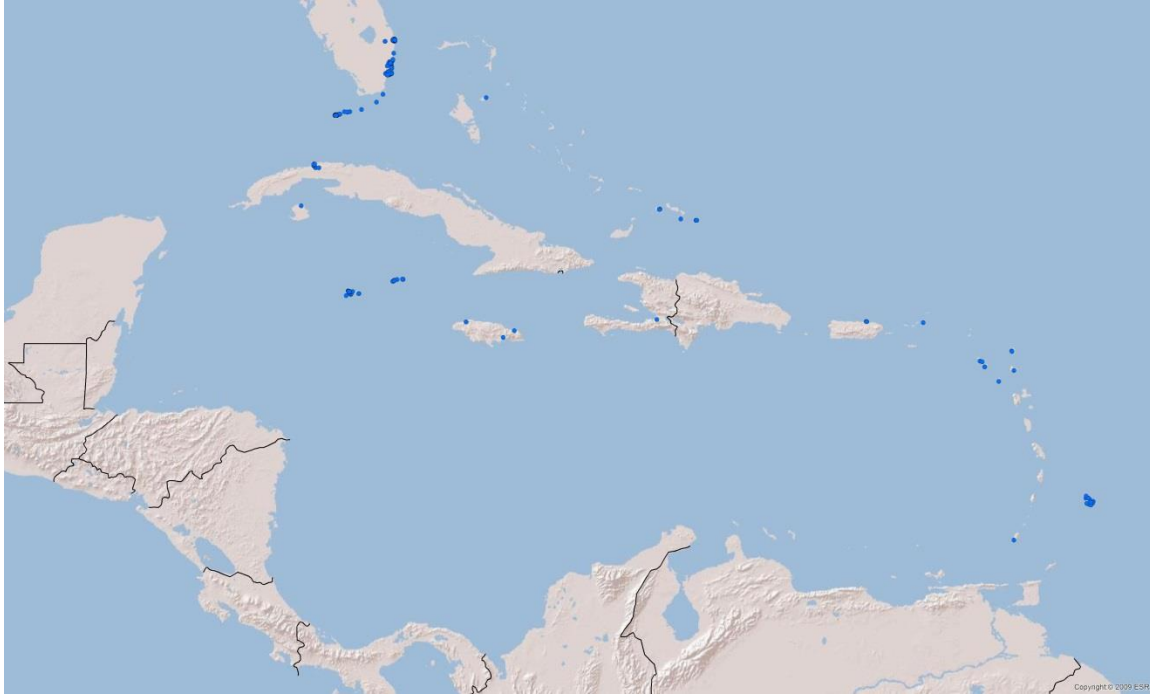
475 **Fig. 9.** Areas predicted as infested by the simulation model for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman  
476 Island. Sampled termite locations in 2014 are mapped (points). Yellow, orange, and red cells  
477 indicate the  $> 0\%$ ,  $\geq 50\%$ , and  $100\%$  occupancy envelopes, respectively.

478

479 **Fig. 10.** Caribbean basin survey localities for all termites (blue dots) and for *Microcerotermes*  
480 spp. only (orange dots) (Source: UF Termite Collection).

481

482

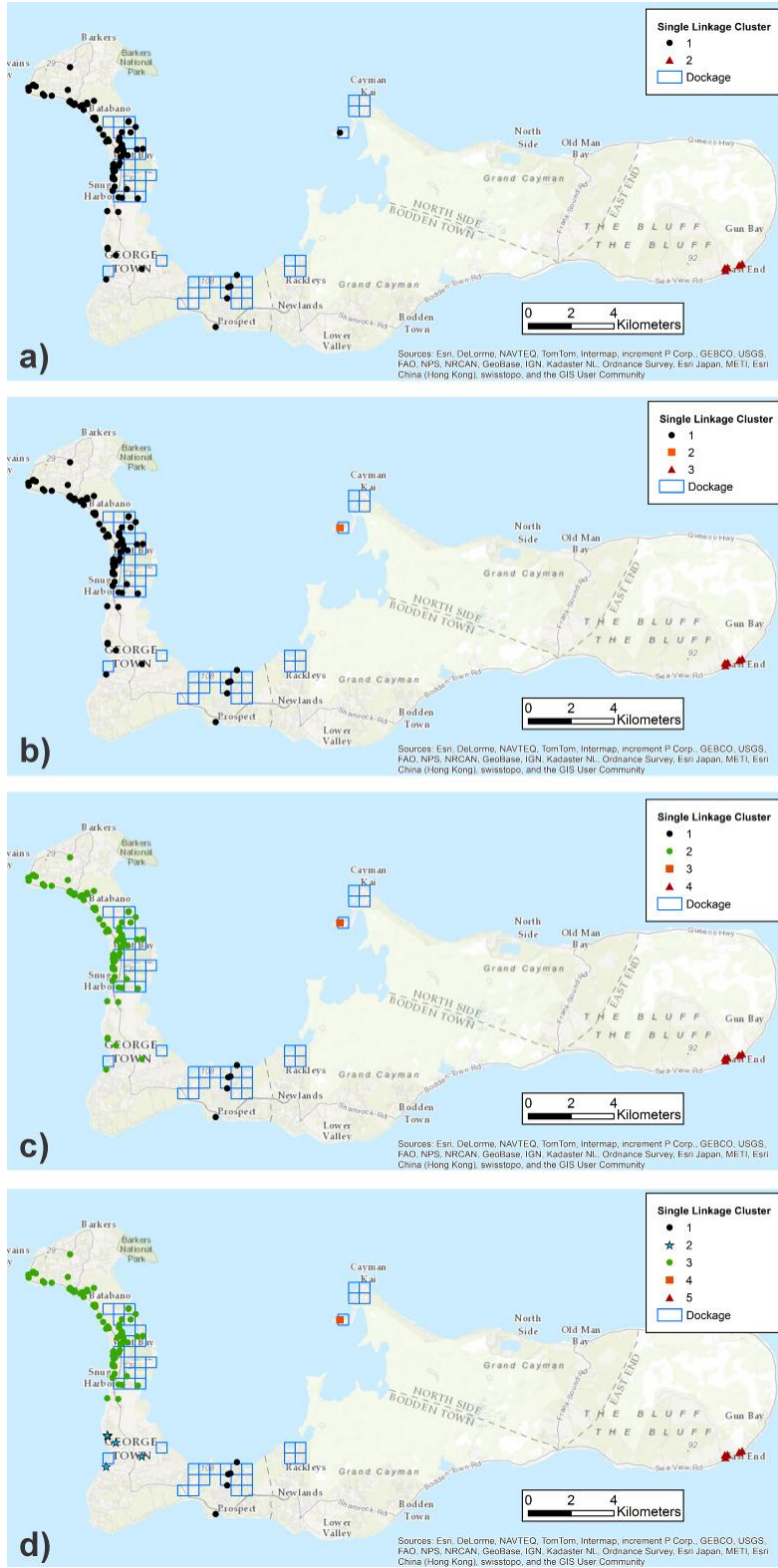


483

484 **Fig. 1.** *Coptotermes gestroi* localities in the greater Caribbean Basin (Source: UF Termite

485 Collection).

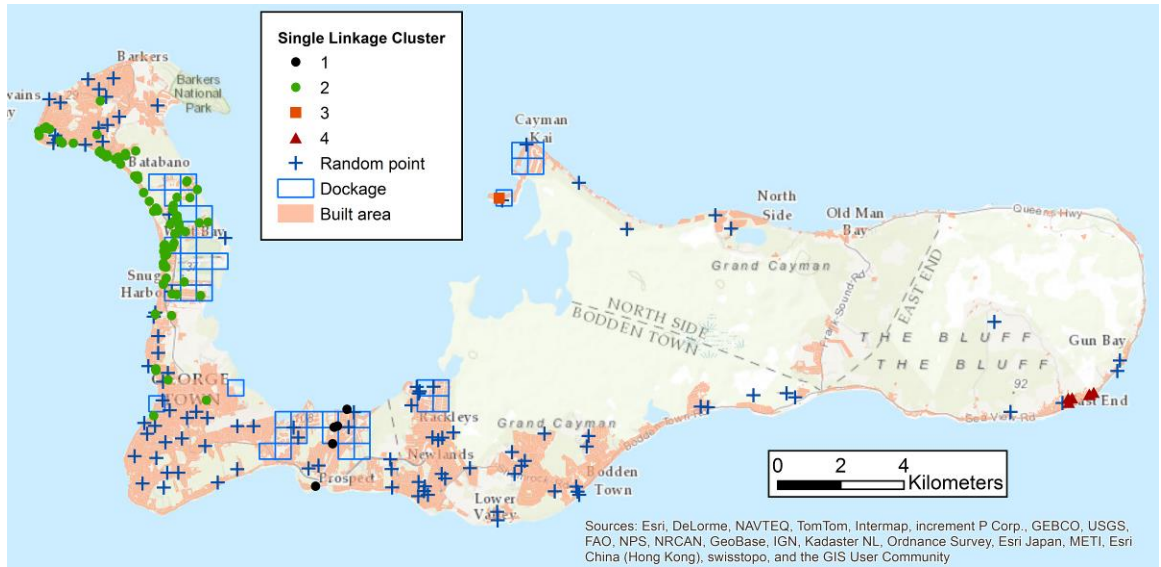
486



487

488 **Fig. 2.** Hierarchical cluster analysis with two (a), three (b), four (c), and five (d) clusters for *C.*

489 *gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.

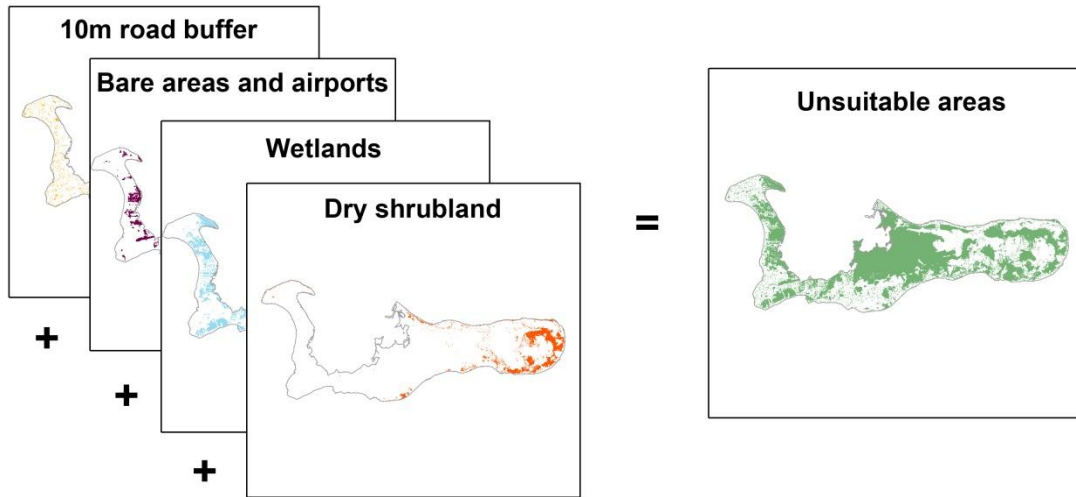


490

491 **Fig. 3.** Collection localities for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island and 102 random points.

492

493

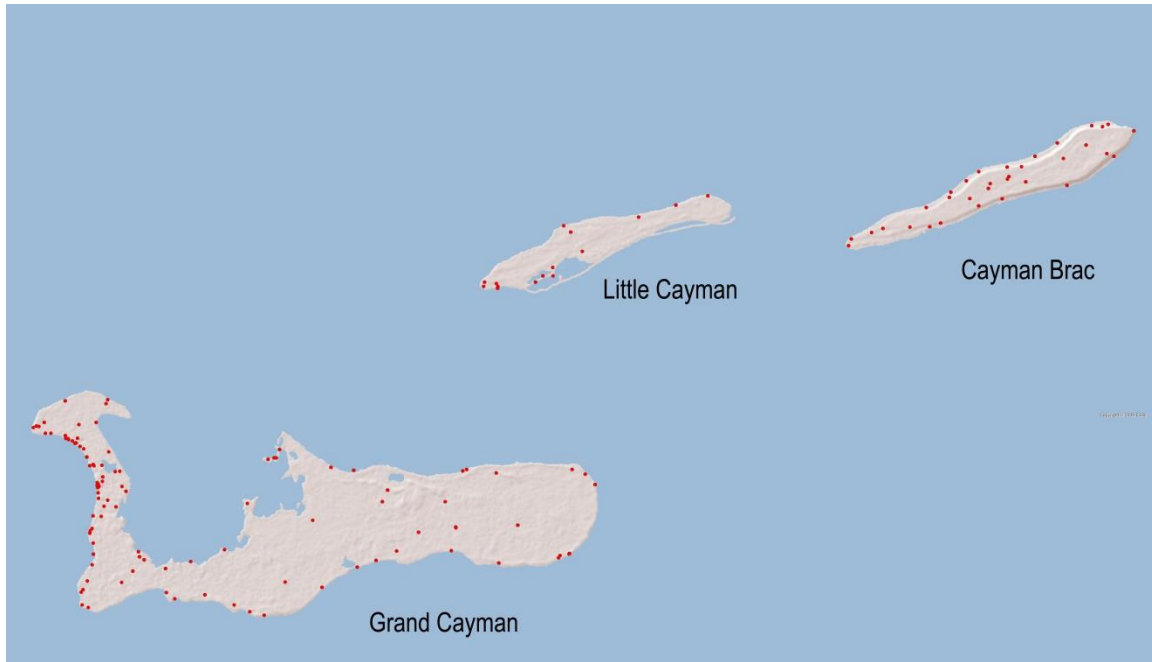


494

495 **Fig. 4.** Vector-type layers used to obtain a surface of unsuitable habitat for *C. gestroi* on Grand  
 496 Cayman Island.

497

498



499

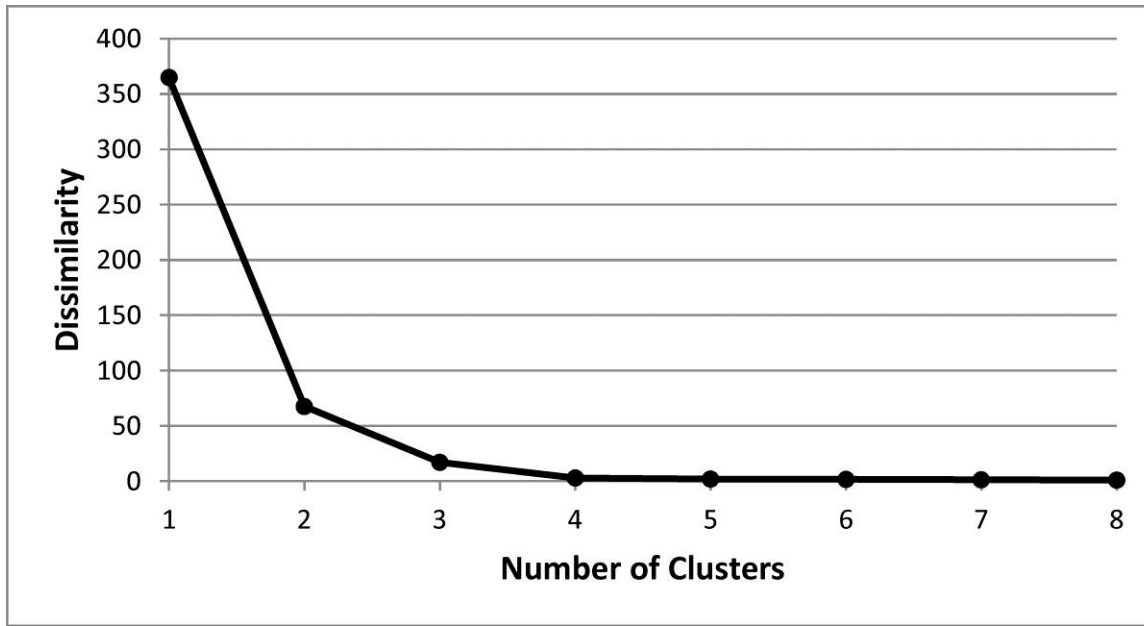
500

501

502

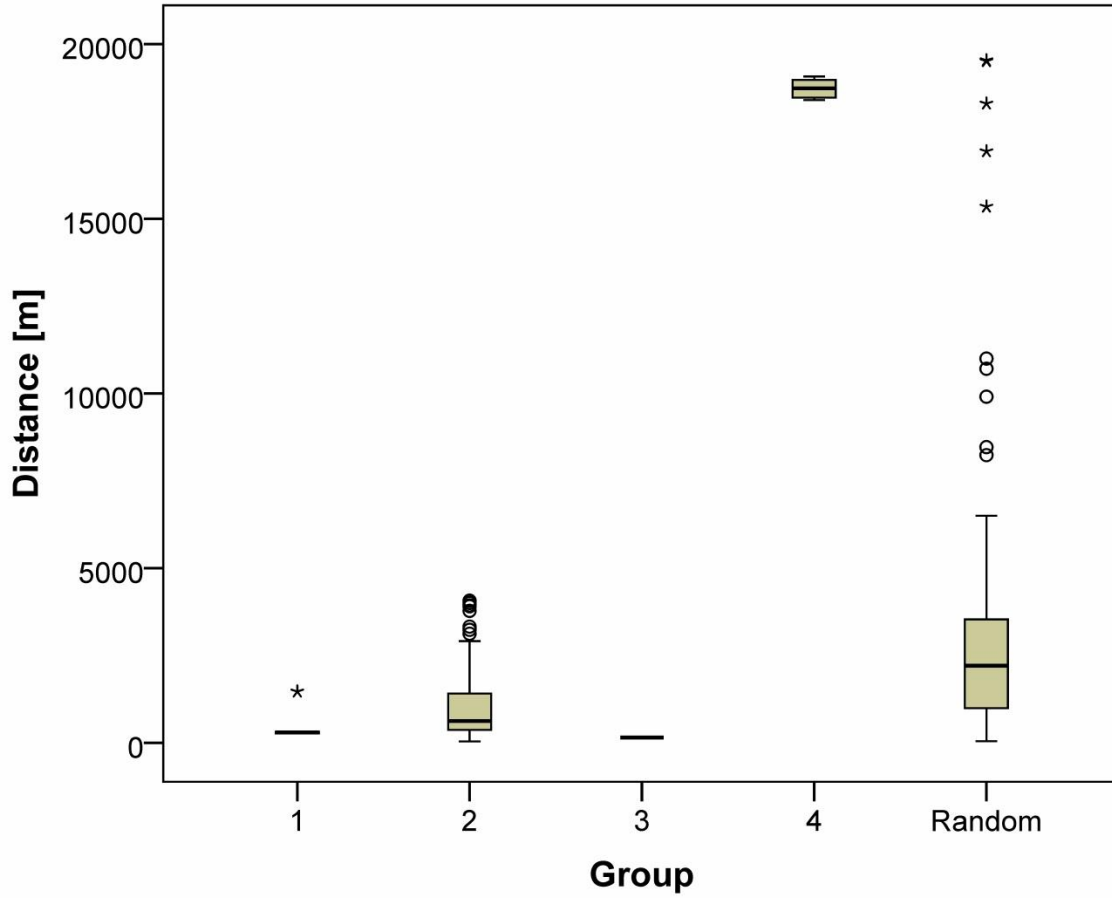
**Fig. 5.** Termite sampling localities from UF termite collection (For purposes of space, the geographic positions of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac not related to that of Grand Cayman).





503

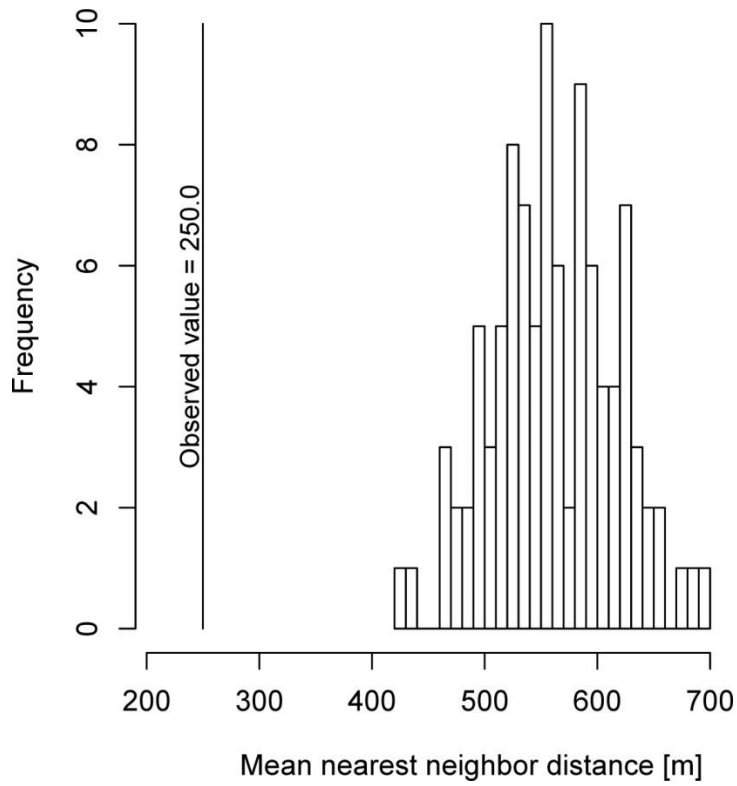
504 **Fig. 6.** Plot for the Single Linkage Clustering method for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.



505

506 **Fig. 7.** Plot for the Single Linkage Clustering method for distances to the nearest marine dockage

507 *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman Island.

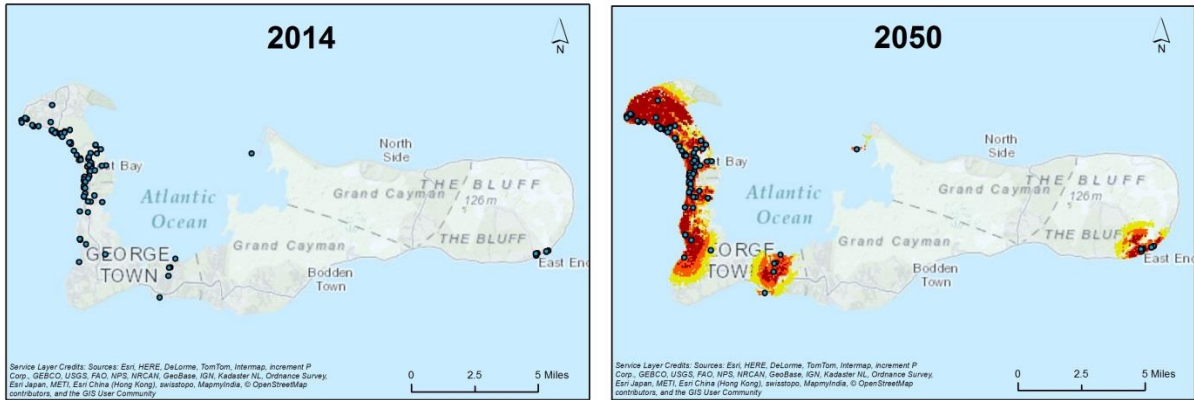


508

509 **Fig. 8.** Distribution of mean nearest neighbor distance obtained from Monte-Carlo simulation  
 510 with 102 randomized points placed in built areas within suitable habitats.

511

512



513

514 **Fig. 9.** Areas predicted as infested by the simulation model for *C. gestroi* over Grand Cayman

515 Island. Sampled termite locations in 2014 are mapped (points). Yellow, orange, and red cells

516 indicate the  $> 0\%$ ,  $\geq 50\%$ , and  $100\%$  occupancy envelopes, respectively.

517



518

519 **Fig. 10.** Caribbean basin survey localities for all termites (blue dots) and for *Microcerotermes*

520 spp. only (orange dots) (Source: UF Termite Collection).

521