

NEWS BREAK

EXOTIC TERMITES FIND EACH OTHER

MIAMI • Two particularly hungry, exotic termite species apparently have found love halfway around the world and, as with so many other Florida hookups, the results are disturbing.

Asian and Formosan subterranean termites are two of the most destructive termite species in the world, responsible for much of the estimated \$40 billion in economic losses attributed to termites annually. Their habitat ranges overlap in lush South Florida, but experts believed the colonies didn't mingle because their aboveground mating swarms launched in different months.

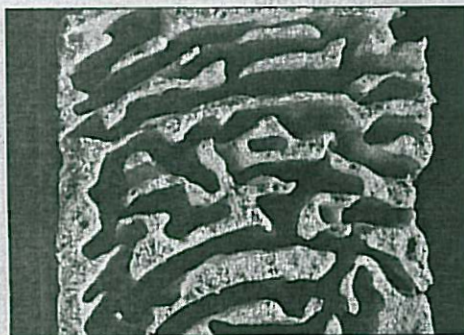
That is, until University of Florida researcher Thomas Chouvenc noticed that the two species were flying around Fort Lauderdale looking for mates at the same time - and they were giving each other that look.

"When we put them in vials and brought them back to the lab, to our biggest surprise they started laying eggs and the eggs started growing," he said.

The research is preliminary, but the idea of a hybrid termite carrying the destructive capabilities of two invasive species worries experts.

"That's big news," said Matthew Messenger, an entomologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "They're two bad ones, too."

- The Associated Press



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

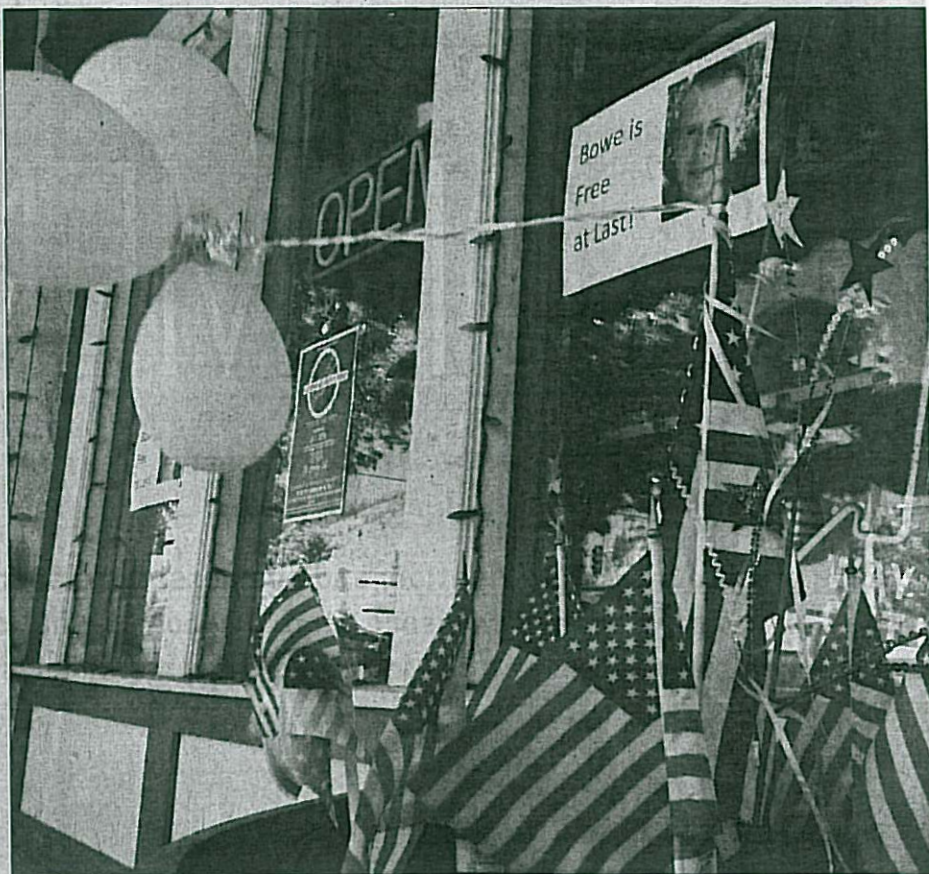
Wood damage caused by Asian and Formosan termites in Florida. The two species may be breeding where their habitats overlap in South Florida.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, March 26, the 85th day of 2015. There are 280 days left in the year.

Today's headline:

On March 26, 1945, during World War II, two Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following



BRIA

BERGDAHL CHARGED WITH DESERTING

BY ALLEN G. BREED
and LOLITA C. BALDOR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. • Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who abandoned his post in Afghanistan and was held captive for five years by the Taliban, was charged Wednesday by the U.S. military with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy and could get life in prison if convicted.

The charges are the latest development in a long and bitter debate over Bergdahl's case. They also underscore the military and political ramifications of his decision on June 20, 2009, to leave his

post.

Last May 31, Bergdahl was handed over to U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan as part of an exchange for five Taliban commanders at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The exchange set off a debate over whether the U.S. should have released the five Taliban members. Some lawmakers have predicted that the five would return to the battlefield.

Wednesday's announcement brought further criticism of the exchange from some lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, the chairman of the

House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. "Bergdahl was a deserter," McCaul said in a statement.

The Obama administration appeared to stand by the swap.

"Was it worth it? Absolutely. We have a commitment to our men and women serving overseas, or in our military defending our national security every day, that we will do everything we can to get them home, and that's what we did in this case," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in

"Was it worth it?"
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