



## Key to the soldiers of *Angularitermes* Emerson with a new species from Brazilian Amazonia (Isoptera: Termitidae: Nasutitermitinae)

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### Abstract

An identification key based on characters of the soldier caste is provided for species of *Angularitermes*. Soldiers of previously described species in the genus, *A. clypeatus*, *A. nasutissimus*, *A. orestes*, *A. pinocchio* and *A. tiguassu*, are illustrated along with a new species, *Angularitermes coninasus*, **n. sp.**, that is described and illustrated from soldier and worker castes. Samples of the new species were collected from epigeal nests at the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. The soldier of *A. coninasus*, **n. sp.** is distinguished from its congeners by having a short conical frontal tube, much wider at its base.

**Key words:** termites, taxonomy, Neotropical region, identification key

### Introduction

The Nasutitermitinae genus *Angularitermes* was described by Emerson (1925) as a new subgenus of *Nasutitermes* Dudley, based on imago and soldier castes from the rain forest of Kartabo, Guyana (South America). Later, Snyder (1949) raised *Angularitermes* to generic level and Mathews (1977) considered it as a senior synonym of *Tintermes* Araujo.

*Angularitermes* is a well defined genus, whose soldiers are characterized by bilobed postclypeus, the intricate microsculpture on the frontal tube base (Cancello *et al.* 1996) and the relatively large mandible “points”, while workers have mandibles with reduced marginal teeth. The genus ranges from Trinidad to southeastern Brazil (Constantino, 1998).

Five species were included in *Angularitermes* until now. *A. nasutissimus* Emerson 1925, the type-species, is known from Amazonia and Trinidad. Emerson (1925) did not mention the microhabitat of the type material. One sample from the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) from Amapá, Brazil, has an observation made by the collector as “in rotten wood”.

*A. clypeatus* Mathews 1977 was described from Mato Grosso State and was found as an inquiline in nests of *Cornitermes silvestrii*. *A. orestes* (Araujo 1970) shows a distribution in the Cerrado vegetation in central Brazil, and was found by Araujo (1970) as an inquiline of nests of *Armitermes euamignathus* and by Mathews (1977) in nest of *Embiratermes neotenicus*. *A. pinocchio* Cancello & Brandão 1996 is known from the Cerrado region in the State of Goiás (Brazil), and also from the Atlantic Forest (Reis & Cancello, 2007); this species was found by D. Brandão (Cancello *et al.* 1996) as an inquiline in nests of *C. silvestrii*. Finally, *A. tiguassu* Cancello & Brandão 1996 is known only from the State of Goiás, and was collected in the soil drawn up by the raised roots of a fallen tree, in a semi-deciduous tropical forest (Cancello *et al.* 1996) and also found as an inquiline in nests of *Cornitermes cumulans* by Costa *et al.* (2009).