

**RETICULITERMES FLAVIPES (ISOPTERA: RHINOTERMITIDAE)
and DROSOPHILA MELANOGASTER
(DIPTERA: DROSOPHILIDAE) SHARE DEVELOPMENTAL
GENE SEQUENCE**

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After constructing a *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar) worker complementary DNA (cDNA) library and screening clones, we found a gene fragment homologous to the eyelid (*eld*) gene of *Drosophila melanogaster*. The *eld* gene is required for embryonic segmentation, development of the notum and wing margin, and photoreceptor differentiation in *D. melanogaster*. We designed oligonucleotide primers based on termite and *Drosophila* sequences, then used these primers to amplify and sequence through the gene fragment. We report the first characterization of the *eld* gene sequence in a subterranean termite.