

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Steve Kerr, inaturalist

Common Name: Surinam Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Pycnoscelus surinamensis*

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blaberidae, various species

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	12 - 15 mm (ootheca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Crescent shaped with indentations.● Light colored.
Larva/Nymph	4.5 mm (1st instar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anterior abdominal segments are shiny black, posterior abdominal segments are dull black.
Adult	18 - 25 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black body with shiny brown wings.● Light brown forewings.● Fully developed wings extending beyond abdomen.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: Surinam cockroaches are known to feed on pineapple, potato, rose and lily bark, and other plants, especially in greenhouses. They can cause considerable damage to some of the aforementioned plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): *Pycnoscelus surinamensis* are intermediate hosts of the poultry eye worm which are parasitic nematodes that infect poultry.

References:

Brenner, R. J., & Kramer, R. D. (2019). Cockroaches (Blattaria). In *Medical and Veterinary Entomology* (pp. 61-77). Academic Press.

Schwabe, C. W. (1949). Observations on the life history of *Pycnoscelus surinamensis* (Linn.), the intermediate host of the chicken eyeworm in Hawaii. *Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society*, 13(3), 433-436.

Smith, E. H., & Whitman, R. C. (1992). *NPCA field guide to structural pests*. Dunn Loring, VA: NPCA.