

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** American Cockroach

**Scientific Name:** *Periplaneta americana*

**Order and Family:** Blattodea, Blattidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Eggs-in a case called an ootheca</b>	8mm	Hard, dark brown, and purse-shaped containing 16 eggs
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		Variable numbers of instars, roughly 7. Light colored after molt, darkening over time
<b>Adult</b>	4cm	Reddish-brown coloring with pale brown to yellow band around edge of pronotum (area behind the head) Males have both cerci and stylets protruding from end of abdomen. Females have just cerci
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host plant/s:** Adult and nymphs are both omnivorous and opportunistic, eating just about anything they happen across. As scavengers they have been known to feed on sweets, paper products, hair, clothing, dead insects or other decaying matter.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** American cockroaches can be a public health concern. Although primarily found outside in sewers or drainage pipes, American cockroaches are found in great abundance in homes, restaurants, and any structures that prepare food. Because of their presence in sewage and dump areas, there is high risk of disease spread due to their association with human waste. These cockroaches have been known to spread a multitude of human pathogens including bacteria, viruses, protozoans, and fungi. Human allergies are also associated with cockroaches, their body parts, and their feces.

**References:**

Barbara, K. A. (2017). American Cockroach-*Periplaneta Americana*. *Featured Creatures*. University of Florida.

Jacobs, S. (2013). American cockroaches. *Insect Advice from Extension*. Pennsylvania State University.