

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Gary Alpert, Harvard University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: German Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Blattella germanica*

Order and Family: Blattodea, Blattellidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Egg case or ootheca-8mm	Small, brown and purse-shaped containing 30-40 eggs
Larva/Nymph		
Adult	10-15mm	Brown to dark brown coloring with two longitudinal dark bands on the pronotum. Males have their terminal segment of the abdomen visible while the females' wings cover theirs completely.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host plant/s: German cockroaches are omnivorous, feeding on food scraps, animal feed, paper products, and any kind of garbage.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): German cockroaches are domestic pests that readily infest structures, preferring to inhabit moist areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. They are considered to be a public health concern due to their ability to carry pathogens and disperse them. Cockroach feces, shed skins, and body parts are also considered major allergens. In severe instances, biting can occur. German

cockroach infestations can readily become a major issue in ideal growth situations. They reproduce continuously and have many overlapping generations that can be present at one time.

References:

Jacobs, S. (2013). German Cockroaches. *Insect Advice from Extension*. Pennsylvania State University. <https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/german-cockroaches>

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