

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Gerald S. Wegner

Common Name: Florida woods cockroach

Scientific Name: *Eurycotis floridana*

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattidae

Size and Appearance:

The Florida woods cockroach is larger and less flattened than most other cockroaches. Compared to other cockroaches, they are also relatively slow moving.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca 13 – 16 mm and 6.4 – 7.5 mm high	The ootheca are initially pale, but over time as the cuticle hardens, they turn dark brown to black in color. Each ootheca contains about 20 – 24 eggs.
Larva/Nymph		The nymphs are reddish-brown to black in color. Late instar nymphs commonly have yellow margins on the thoracic segments.
Adult	30 – 40 mm in length and up to 24 mm wide	Adults are glossy dark reddish-brown, occasionally with some lighter areas toward the sides of the body. They have vestigial wings and are not capable of flight.
Pupa (if applicable)		N/A

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

The nymphal stages and adults have chewing mouthparts.

Host/s:

Florida woods cockroaches are often found in wooded areas. They shelter under bark of dead trees, in stumps, tree holes and wood piles. They are also often referred to as “palmetto bugs” because they commonly hide under palmetto leaves. They feed primarily on decomposing plant material.

Description of Damage:

Populations of Florida woods cockroaches can build up in areas of dense plantings and leaf litter around homes. They can enter structures, or be brought in on firewood. Once indoors, they are a nuisance pest; however, they generally do not establish themselves indoors long-term. Florida woods cockroaches can emit an oily, offensive smelling fluid when disturbed, and are thus sometimes referred to as a “stink roach.”

References:

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