

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Daniel D. Dye II

Common Name: Pennsylvania wood cockroach

Scientific Name: *Parcoblatta pennsylvanica*

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattellidae

Size and Appearance:

Pennsylvania wood cockroaches are dark brown cockroaches with significant sexual dimorphism (males and females are distinctly different).

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca 11 – 13 mm	Yellowish-brown, often deposited under loose bark or fallen wood. The length is 2-3 times the width. Each ootheca contains about 32 – 36 eggs.
Larva/Nymph		Nymphs are reddish-brown in color.
Adult	Male: 22 – 30 mm Female: 13 – 20 mm	Adults are a chestnut brown color with a lighter border around their wings and pronotum. Males are good fliers, with wings extending beyond their abdomen. Females have reduced 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:

They are often found under bark or fallen wood, or in stumps or woodpiles. They feed primarily on decaying organic matter, but they have been observed feeding on a wide variety of foods, including live and dead insects, mushrooms, sap, cercopid spittle and mammalian feces.

Description of Damage:

In warmer months, they can become abundant in suburban landscape environments. Males fly well and are attracted to light. They may enter structures through openings seeking light. Both males and females may be brought in on firewood during the cooler months. However, they rarely reproduce indoors.

References:

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