

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Joyce Groce, www.joycegross.com

Common Name: Turkestan cockroach

Scientific Name: *Blatta lateralis*

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattidae

Size and Appearance:

Turkestan cockroaches have significant sexual dimorphism. Males (above left) are brownish yellow and resemble male American cockroaches, while females (above right) are darker brown and resemble female oriental cockroaches. Female Turkestan cockroaches can be distinguished from female oriental cockroaches by the pale markings along the edges behind their head.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca: 9 – 12 mm	Brownish-black; oothecae have about 16 - 18 eggs.
Larva/Nymph	First instar: 3.5 – 4.6 mm Second instar: 5.2 – 7.8 mm Third instar: 7.5 – 10.6 mm Fourth instar: 9.8 – 15.1 mm Fifth instar: 12.3 – 16.3 mm	Nymphs have a reddish-brown head, prothorax and mesothorax, and a dark brown to black abdomen. Each instar is smaller than corresponding stages of oriental cockroaches.
Adult	Female: 22.3 – 25.2 mm Male: 24.8 – 29.1 mm	Males are tawny brown in color with wings extending beyond the tip of the abdomen. Females are dark brown with pale stripes on the outer edge of their reduced wings.
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 inside in-ground water meter and irrigation boxes. Other areas they can be found around homes include inside block walls, under leaf litter, in electrical boxes, under planters and pots, under trash cans, under concrete raised by tree roots and in other cracks and crevices. They are also found infesting sewers and other utility tunnels.

Description of Damage:

They occasionally invade structures. Males, because of their attraction to light and ability to fly, are more often found inside. Unlike oriental cockroaches, Turkestan cockroaches seldom establish populations indoors.

References:

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