

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Australian Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Periplaneta australasiae* (Fabricius)

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattidae

Size and Appearance: Australian cockroaches are about 32-35 mm long and reddish-brown aside from a pale yellow band on the edge of the pronotal shield. They also have a similar colored streak on the edge of each wing. Both sexes of this species feature a full set of functioning wings and are strong fliers. Nymphs are black during the first instar, brown in 2nd, and have a white marking on the mesothorax. The white markings expand in the later instars. The oothecal (egg case) is dark brown to black with 12-14 eggs on each end.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca- 11 mm	Dark brown to black, deposited in crevices and hidden areas, 20 eggs produced
Larva/Nymph	1-35 mm depending on instars	1 st instar black, 2 nd instar brown, both with white segment on mesothorax. Later instars are reddish-brown with more pronounced white/yellow markings. 9-12 instars.
Adult	32-35 mm	Shiny brown-black in color with fully developed wings. Yellow/white band on mesothorax. Similar coloration on sides of wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	N/A	

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

Host product/s: Australian roaches feed on decaying plant matter and tender parts of plants. They will also consume starchy food products if presented with the opportunity.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Australian roaches prefer areas with high humidity and remain mostly outdoors. They often end up indoors when indoor plants are moved in and out of doors. Greenhouses, restaurants, and other areas of high humidity with tropical plants present are attractive to the Australian roach. Like most roaches, Australians can spread pathogens around and contaminate food sources, leading to gastrointestinal issues as well as encouraging allergic reactions.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Cockroaches- Australian Cockroach. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (4.3.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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