

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Brown-banded Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Supella longipalpa* (Fabricius)

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattellidae

Size and Appearance: Brown-banded roaches range in size from about 13-14.5 mm for males and 11-12 mm for females. Hence their namesake, they are brown in color with females being darker. They have a distinctive bell-shaped pattern on their pronotum and wings that are dark at the base and paler at the tips. They also feature a pale band at their base. The wings of the female do not extend down as far as the males'. Nymphs are dark brown or black in color with pale markings on the thorax. They develop the bell-shaped pattern in the last 2 instars. The oothecal (egg case) is a light brown and usually has 7 eggs on each side.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca- 5 mm	Light brown, 7-9 eggs on each side
Larva/Nymph	3-11 mm depending on instars	Dark brown or black with pale markings on thorax. Bell-shaped pattern visible in older instars. No wings present.
Adult	11-12 mm Females 13-14.5 mm Males	Males- Brown with distinctive bell-shaped pattern on pronotum and full wings. Females- Darker brown/black without a full pair of wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	N/A	

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

Host product/s: Brown-banded roaches feed on a wide variety of food sources as well as glue, starch, food dyes, draperies, and wallpapers.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Roaches are almost exclusively a nuisance pest. Brown-banded roaches that get into pantries and food storage facilities can spread bacteria and protozoa around, causing diarrhea and gastroenteritis in those consuming them.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Cockroaches-Brown-banded Cockroach. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (4.5.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (March 2002). Brown-banded Cockroaches. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 29th, 2016 from
<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/brown-banded-cockroaches>