

## Pest Profile



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

**Common Name:** German Cockroach

**Scientific Name:** *Blattella germanica* (Linnaeus)

**Order and Family:** Blattodea: Blattellidae

**Size and Appearance:** German roaches are about 13-16 mm long and light brown to tan in color. They are distinguished by having 2 parallel vertical black lines on their pronotal shield. Females are slightly darker in color and smaller in size. Neither sex tends to fly despite having wings. Nymphs have darker coloration aside from a pale mark on the abdomen.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	<b>Ootheca- 5 mm</b> <b>**Can reproduce parthenogenetically (asexually)</b>	<b>Light brown, 20-24 eggs usually glued to a substrate soon after development.</b>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	<b>3-11 mm depending on instars</b>	<b>Dark brown or black with pale markings on abdomen. 6-7 instars.</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>13-16 mm</b>	<b>Light brown with 2 parallel black lines on pronotal shield. Females darker in color and slightly smaller.</b>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	<b>N/A</b>	

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

**Host product/s:** German roaches feed on a wide variety of food sources and have no strong preference.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** German roaches are extremely hard to get rid of once they have a population built up due to living in hard to access places such as wall voids. Preventative measures and following an IPM plan are key to success in their removal. They are of medical concern due to damaging food with frass, secretions, and passing along pathogens. This produces severe allergic reactions in some and they have been known to cause psychological distress as well.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Cockroaches-German Cockroach. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (4.9.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Valles, S. (August 2008). German Cockroach. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/roaches/german.htm>