

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Oriental Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Blatta orientalis* (Linnaeus)

Order and Family: Blattodea: Blattidae

Size and Appearance: Oriental roaches are about 32 mm long and shiny black in color. Males have full wings whereas females have greatly reduced wings resembling nymph stage wing pads. Nymphs are reddish-brown, rounded, and darken as they mature. Ootheca (egg case) changes color from red to black and usually has 8 eggs on each side.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Ootheca- 8-10 mm	Light brown fading to black over time. Usually 16 eggs produced, deposited near food source.
Larva/Nymph	1-30 mm depending on instars	Reddish brown darkening to black as they mature. Rounded abdomen.
Adult	32 mm	Shiny black in color with males having full wings. Females lack full wings and instead just have wing pads.
Pupa (if applicable)	N/A	

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

Host product/s: Oriental roaches feed on a wide variety of food sources and have a preference for starchy products. Often called “water-bugs,” they are found in areas with high moisture, such as basements and bathrooms.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Like many roaches, Oriental roaches feed on just about anything including sewage, garbage, and decaying matter where they easily pick up pathogens and bacteria they can later introduce into human food sources. This can cause allergic reactions and gastrointestinal issues for some individuals. Additionally, they produce an undesirable odor and their presence in the home can cause psychological stress for many.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Cockroaches-Oriental Cockroach. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (4.12.1). National Pest Management Association International.

McCanless, K. (October 2000). Oriental Cockroach. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved on July 29th, 2016 from http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/roaches/oriental_cockroach.htm