

ORIENTAL COCKROACH

The **Oriental cockroach** or **waterbug** (*Blatta orientalis*) is a large species of cockroach, measuring about 1 inch in length at maturity. It is dark brown to black in color and has a glossy body. The female Oriental cockroach has a somewhat different appearance to the male, appearing to be wingless at casual glance but has two very short and useless wings just below its head. It has a wider body than the male. The male has long wings, which cover a majority of its body and are brown in color, and has a more narrow body. The odd male is capable of very short flights, ranging about 2-3 meters. The female Oriental cockroach looks somewhat similar to the Woods cockroach, and may be mistaken for it.



Habitat

The Oriental cockroach tends to travel somewhat more slowly than other species. They are often called "waterbugs" since they prefer dark, moist places. They can often be found around decaying organic matter, and in sewers, drains, damp basements, porches, and other damp locations. They can be found outside in bushes, under leaf groundcover, under mulch, and around other damp places outdoors.

Adaptation

In order to thrive, cockroaches need a place to hide. They prefer warm places and a relatively high humidity if possible; they also need a source of food/liquid. The optimum temperature for Oriental cockroaches is between 20–29 °C; thus they are rarely found outdoors.

Cockroaches are mainly nocturnal. Oriental cockroaches can be elusive in that a casual inspection of an infested dwelling during the day may show no signs of roach activity.

Distinction

Signs of cockroaches are their oothecae, which are “egg cases” containing up to 16 individual eggs in the case of Oriental cockroaches. These oothecae are dropped by females and hatch on their own in about two months. Oriental cockroaches can be harder to get rid of than other roaches. Although adults can be fairly easily killed by the application of residual insecticide, the insecticides can get washed away, and two months later females can hatch new larvae.



Roaches leave fecal marks, which are larger and drier when water is scarce. It is difficult to see, but Oriental cockroaches' fecal pellets have lines running along the length of the dropping which is caused by pads in the rectum which extract water out of the pellet before it is ejected.