

German Cockroach

Typical Location When Observed: The German cockroach is restricted to indoor settings where food, water, and warm temperatures allow this tropical species to survive.

Importance/Damage: A serious household pest that scavenges on many food items within homes. German cockroaches also can spread food-borne pathogens and are an important allergen source.

Distinguishing Features: The adult German cockroach is pale brown with two longitudinal dark stripes. Body length is typically 11-13 mm and wings are fully developed so they cover the abdomen. Nymphs have a similar pale brown color and oval body form but are smaller. They are wingless but the pair of dark stripes is present and extends along the entire thorax.

Typical of all cockroaches the body is flattened dorsoventrally and the antennae are extremely long and thin. A pair of cerci on the hind end is visible and particularly prominent in the younger, wingless nymphs. They are fast moving insects.

Look-Alikes: The American cockroach (*Periplanata americana*) and the Oriental cockroach (*Blatta orientalis*) also occur in the state. Both of these are much larger than is the German cockroach. The Oriental cockroach is quite dark colored, has short wings and is usually found in sewers or other very moist sites.

Resources: The German cockroach and other cockroaches found in Colorado are discussed in Extension Fact Sheet 5.533, *Cockroaches*.

Scientific Name: *Blattella germanica*

Order: Blattodea (Cockroaches)

Family: Blatellidae



German cockroach adult. Photograph courtesy IPM Images.



German cockroach nymphs on sticky trap. Photograph courtesy Gary Alpert/IPM Images.

Actual Length

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