

A Bug's Life German cockroach

Blattella germanica

Fun facts

- Most common indoor cockroach
- Worldwide distribution
- Public health pest known for allergens, childhood asthma, and transmission of pathogens
- Nocturnal and feeds on anything
- Preference for warm (70°F), humid places like kitchens and bathrooms
- Spends most of the time in cracks and crevices and does not readily fly
- Female carries ootheca until it's about to hatch, 3-4 generations/year

Identification

Ootheca/egg capsule: 1/4" to 3/8" long, yellowish-brown, slightly arched, contains 30-40 eggs

Nymphs: Oval shape, dark and light brown, pale margins and center region; older nymphs with 2 dark longitudinal stripes down body

Adult: 1/2" to 5/8" long, light brown to tan, 2 dark parallel bands on shield behind head; both male and female have full-length wings; female may have ootheca attached

Management

- Inspect incoming items to prevent pest entry into building
- Limit food, water, shelter through sanitation (remove cardboard, clutter)
- Baits effective at reducing cockroach populations quickly and effectively
- Large populations of roaches can be removed with HEPA vacuum
- Use sticky traps to monitor population level and evaluate IPM program
- Contact property management or pest management company for service

