COCKROACHES: PICTORIAL KEY TO SOME COMMON SPECIES

Harry D. Pratt

SMALL, ABOUT 5/8" OR SHORTER

PRONOTUM WITH 2 LONGITUDINAL BLACK BARS

GERMAN COCKROACH
(Blattella germanica)

WINGS COVERING ABOUT HALF OF ABDOMEN PRONOTUM ABOUT 1/4 INCH WIDE

FEMALE

WINGS COVERING NEARLY ALL OF ABDOMEN OR EXTENDING BEYOND. PRONOTUM NARROWER

MALE

WINGS COVERING ABOUT HALF WINGS COVERING NEARLY ALL OF ABDOMEN PRONOTUM OF ABDOMEN OR EXTENDING BEYOND. PRONOTUM NARROWER

LONGER THAN 5/8 INCH

PRONOTUM WITHOUT LONGITUDINAL BLACK BARS

BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH
(Supella sublitellum)

WINGS COVERING NEARLY ALL OF ABDOMEN OR EXTENDING BEYOND. PRONOTUM NARROWER

ORIENTAL COCKROACH
(Blatta orientalis)

FRONT WING WITHOUT PALE STREAK. PRONOTUM SOLID COLOR, OR WITH PALE DESIGN ONLY MODERATELY CONspICUOUS

WOOD ROACH
(Parcoblatta spp.)

PRONOTUM SOLID DARK COLOR, GENERAL COLOR VERY DARK BROWN TO BLACK.

SMOKY BROWN COCKROACH
(Periplaneta fuliginosa)

PRONOTUM USUALLY WITH SOME PALE AREA. GENERAL COLOR Seldom DARKER THAN REDDISH CHESTNUT

LAST SEGMENT OF CERCUS TWICE AS LONG AS WIDE

LAST SEGMENT OF CERCUS TWICE AS LONG AS WIDE

AUSTRALIAN COCKROACH
(Periplaneta australasiae)

BROWN COCKROACH
(Periplaneta brunnea)

AMERICAN COCKROACH
(Periplaneta americana)

SCALE IN INCHES
COCKROACHES: KEY TO EGG CASES OF COMMON DOMESTIC SPECIES
Harold George Scott, Ph.D. and Margery R. Borom

- **Blatella germanica**
  - GERMAN COCKROACH
  - with about 16 subsegments
  - length more than twice width
  - less than ¼" long subsegments apparent

- **Supella supellectilium**
  - BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH
  - with about 8 subsegments
  - length less than twice width
  - more than ¼" long subsegments inapparent

- **Blatta orientalis**
  - ORIENTAL COCKROACH
  - with lateral indentations
  - terminal point strong

- **Periplaneta brunnea**
  - BROWN COCKROACH
  - without lateral indentations
  - terminal point weak

- **Periplaneta fuliginosa**
  - SMOKY-BROWN COCKROACH
  - not symmetrical

- **Periplaneta australasiae**
  - AUSTRALIAN COCKROACH
  - symmetrical
  - length more than twice width

- **Periplaneta americana**
  - AMERICAN COCKROACH
  - length less than twice width
COCKROACHES: KEY TO SOME COMMON SPECIES FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES
Harry D. Pratt & Chester J. Stojanovich

1. Middle and hind femora both with numerous strong spines along the ventral margin (Fig. 1 A)...
   Middle and hind femora without strong spines along the ventral margin (Fig. 1 B)...........12

2. Comparatively large species 18 mm. or longer; subgenital plate of female divided longitudinally, valvular (Fig. 2 A); male styli similar, slender, elongate and straight (Fig. 2 B)........3
   Species usually less than 18 mm. long; or, if longer, anterior-ventral margin of front femur
   with several large stout spines on basal portion, followed by a row of smaller spines (Fig. 2 C);
   female subgenital plate simple, not divided (Fig. 2 D); male styli variable, frequently
   modified, asymmetrical, or unequal in size (Fig. 2 E).................................8

Fig. 1 A

Fig. 1 B

Fig. 2 A

Fig. 2 B

Fig. 2 C

Fig. 2 D

Fig. 2 E
3. Front wing in both sexes extending beyond tip of abdomen (Fig. 3 A).................................4
   Front wing in both sexes not reaching tip of abdomen (Fig. 3 B).................................7

4. Uniformly dark blackish-brown, shining species (Fig. 4 A).............................................4
   (Periplaneta fuliginosa) SMOKY BROWN COCKROACH
   Species with some yellowish markings on pronotum or front wing or both (Fig. 4 B).........5

5. Front wing with yellowish stripe; pronotum with yellowish and darker areas very contrastingly marked (Fig. 5 A)...............................(Periplaneta australasiae) AUSTRALIAN COCKROACH
   Front wing entirely brownish; pronotum with yellowish and darker areas less contrastingly marked (Fig. 5 B)..................................................6
6. Styli very long and slender, longer than space between their bases (Fig. 6 A); cercus long and slender particularly in the male; male supra-anal plate deeply notched (Fig. 6 B)........ (Periplaneta americana) AMERICAN COCKROACH

Styli shorter, not as long as space between their bases (Fig. 6 C); cercus stouter and more evenly spindle-shaped; male supra-anal plate truncate or feebly notched (Fig. 6 D)........ (Periplaneta brunnea) BROWN COCKROACH

7. Blackish species, 15-27 mm. long; male front wings covering two-thirds of abdomen (Fig. 7 A); female front wings widely separated pads (Fig. 7 B); first segment of hind tarsus longer than segments 2-5 combined, pulvilli of second and third segments small (Fig. 7 C)........ (Blatta orientalis) ORIENTAL COCKROACH

Mahogany brownish species, 30-40 mm. long; front wings reduced to short pads, not widely separated (Fig. 7 D); first segment of hind tarsus shorter than segments 2-5 combined, pulvilli of second and third segments large (Fig. 7 E).... (Eurycotis floridana) LARGE FLORIDA COCKROACH
8. Pronotum with two conspicuous longitudinal dark bars on a pale background (Fig. 8 A)............9
  Pronotum variously marked, but without two conspicuous dark longitudinal bars (Fig. 8 B)........10

9. Face pale (Fig. 9 A); male subgenital plate asymmetrical, styli very unequal, short and rounded (Fig. 9 B).
   (Blattella germanica) GERMAN COCKROACH

   Face dark; male subgenital plate almost symmetrical, styli somewhat elongate and subequal in size (Fig. 9 C).
   (Blattella vaga) FIELD COCKROACH

10. Pronotum with a broad dark central stripe; front wings of both sexes appearing to have two transverse brownish bars, some pale specimens showing bars poorly (Fig. 10 A). Width of pronotum usually not exceeding 4.5 mm.............. (Supella supellectilium) BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH

   Pronotum and front wings otherwise, or, if pronotum is so marked, its width exceeding 4.5 mm.
   (Fig. 10 B).................................................................11
11. Larger species 9-25 mm. or more in length; front wing without small dark spots in winged specimens (Fig. 11 A); claws equal (Fig. 11 B); ventral anterior margin of front femur with 3 long apical spines (Fig. 11 C)...........................................(Parcoblatta species) WOOD COCKROACHES

Small species, 8-9 mm. long; front wing with small dark spots (Fig. 11 D); claws unequal (Fig. 11 E); ventral anterior margin of front femur with 2 long apical spines (Fig. 11 F)................................................(Ectobius pallidus) SPOTTED MEDITERRANEAN COCKROACH

12. Top of eyes close together (Fig. 12 A); general color a nearly uniform greenish; posterior margin of pronotum somewhat angularly produced (Fig. 12 B) (Panchlora nivea) CUBAN COCKROACH

Top of eyes sometimes distant (Fig. 12 C); general color various shades of brown and gray; pronotum usually not angularly produced posteriorly (Fig. 12 D)..........................13
13. Medium sized species, 30 mm. or less in length, including folded wings (Fig. 14 A & B)......14
14. Large species 40 mm. or more in length, including folded wings (Fig. 15 A & C)..........15
14. Pronotum uniformly blackish except a narrow yellowish band along anterior and lateral margins (Fig. 14 A). (Pycnoscelus surinamensis) SURINAM COCKROACH
Pronotum pale with a narrow dark longitudinal submarginal band on each side and irregular brownish blotches on disc (Fig. 14 B). (Nauphoeta cinerea) CINEREOUS COCKROACH

Fig. 14 A

Fig. 14 B

15. Disc or pronotum with shield-like design, sometimes skull-like design (Fig. 15 A); front femur with one or more stout spurs on underside (Fig. 15 B). (Blaberus giganteus; Blaberus craniifer) GIANT COCKROACH
Disc of pronotum with shield-like design darkened in outline only, not solid black (Fig. 15 C); front femur with a line of stiff hairs on anterior-ventral margin (Fig. 15 D). (Leucophaea maderae) MADEIRA COCKROACH

Fig. 15 A

Fig. 15 B

Fig. 15 C

Fig. 15 D