



Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches

Gromphadorhina portentosa

Description: These are large cockroaches averaging at a 2-3 inches long. They have an oval body with a hard shiny exoskeleton. Their colors range anywhere from light brown to black and even some red. Both the males and females have one pair of antennae but the males have two horns on their heads that make them look bigger and more impressive both to females and other males or predators.

Range: Cockroaches are found on every continent, but Madagascar hissing cockroaches, like their name implies, are found exclusively on the island of Madagascar.

Habitat: Cockroaches usually live on the forest floor where there is plenty of cover from predators and lots of rotting vegetation to eat.



Lifespan: In the wild they can live from 2-5 years.

Behavior: Like most cockroaches they are not pests and do not invade human dwellings, they live in the cover of the forest floor where there is plenty of logs and leaves to hide under. They got their name from the ability to hiss by breathing air through several holes in their exoskeleton. This hissing is used in mating and also in fighting. It is believed that louder hissing establishes a hierarchy and when males fight, they hiss and the winner is almost always the louder hisser.

Natural Diet: They eat decaying fruits and vegetables that fall off trees.

Zoo Diet: At the zoo they are fed fruits and vegetables

Reproduction: When females have young they form a cocoon like structure called an ootheca and carry their eggs inside them. Their young, neonatal nymphs, are then born live.

Conservation Status: Not listed. Common.



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