

3.2 THE COCKROACH'S HABITS

West Indian

Blatta gigantea, West Indian cockroach

Therea petiveriana, Seven-spotted cockroach



In Figure 1). The large West Indian cockroach is also known as the “Drummer”. It is found in the West Indies and semi-tropical America.

The nickname is related to the knocking sound made with their head when searching for a mate. The knocking very much resembles a smart knocking with the knuckles upon the door facing.

The “Drummer” attains a length of 2 inches.

In Figure 2). The Seven-spotted cockroach or Indian Domino cockroach or Desert cockroach, is a species found in southern India.

The black and white pattern of adults is believed to have evolved to mimic the pattern of the aggressive ground beetle *Anthia sexguttata* that has strong defenses. The species is one of the few cockroaches with “grace and beauty”.

This somewhat roundish and contrastingly marked cockroach is mainly found on the ground in forests where they burrow under loose ground during the heat of the day.

This species is popular as a pet in many parts of the world and is easy to keep.

Plate was recovered from “The Naturalist’s Library: Introduction to Entomology Vol. 1” by Sir William Jardine. Published in 1840 Engraved by W. H. Lizars. It is a steel-plate line engraving, hand colored, with background foliage left uncolored. Rough left edge from removing plate.

Periplaneta australasiae, Australian cockroach

Australian cockroaches are reddish-brown to dark-brown in color. They have a characteristic yellow margin on the thorax and yellow stripes on the wings. They range in size from 1 1/4 to 1 3/8 inches in length. Australian cockroaches prefer to live outdoors around the perimeter of houses. They are found in leaf litter, flowers, green houses and crawl spaces.

