

3.2 THE COCKROACH'S HABITS

Worldwide

Cockroaches live worldwide. They were stowaways on trade ships. Hiding in the dark and damp hulls of the ships gave them the perfect cover for their vast voyage to far away ports.



Antique Trade Card by Liebig Products, 1865



Sir Frances Drake once captured a ship which was infested with millions of cockroaches.



The H. M. S. Bounty with a valuable cargo of breadfruit plants was so overrun with cockroaches that Captain William Bligh, a British Admiral known to have a bad temper, disinfected the entire ship with boiling water.

Periplaneta americana, the **American cockroach** or **Palmetto bug**:

The American cockroach is reddish brown and has a yellowish margin on the body region behind the head. They grow up to two inches in length and can fly. They feed on any kind of organic material. A Swedish botanist named Linnaeus named this roach the American cockroach because the specimen he was studying came from America. Linnaeus never corrected the mistake in the name. The American cockroach originated in tropical Africa. It is very common in the southern United States, and in tropical climates throughout the world. Nocturnal, they hide and rest during the day and search for food at night.

