

# IPM NEWS

July 2004

## Important Information- Schedule change!!

Due to workloads and schedules, the next training will be scheduled in September instead of July. This will push the third training to November instead of September. If this will be worse for your schedules, contact me to make other arrangements. Thanks!

Wizzie

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## Cockroaches

Cockroaches can be a serious problem in homes and other structures. These insects are capable of transmitting disease as well as their cast skin, or exuviae, causing allergies.

Most cockroaches are found outdoors, but some species have become adapted to living with humans. Roaches enter into homes around loose door and window fittings as well as sewer lines, attics and where pipes penetrate the exterior of the home. They may also enter via infested boxes, grocery bags, furniture and dried pet food.

Cockroaches are active at night. They are usually only visible during the day if they have been disturbed or there is a severe infestation. Roaches prefer warm, dark, humid areas and are commonly found around the kitchen sink. These insects like to rest in tight, dark spaces such as cracks around cabinets, under tables or chairs, in upholstered furniture or electrical appliances, or behind baseboards.

Being omnivores, cockroaches feed on a variety of plant and animal products. Some of these include meat, grease, starchy food, baked goods, leather, wallpaper paste and book bindings.

German cockroaches are 1/2 inch long, tan with two dark stripes above the head. This is the most common cockroach in Texas. Females carry the ootheca, or egg capsule, until it is ready to hatch. Ootheca contain about 30-40 eggs. Under favorable

conditions, the developmental period for nymphs can be as short as two months.

Brownbanded cockroaches are about 1/2 inch long, tan with transverse yellow bands across the base of the wings. Adults males have wings that cover the abdomen while adult females have shorter wings. Adults will fly when disturbed. Females carry the egg capsule for a couple of days before gluing it to a protected surface. Ootheca contain about 13-17 eggs.

Brownbanded cockroaches are usually found in drier locations within a structure (i.e. living room, office) due to lower water requirements than other roaches.

American cockroaches are about 1 1/2 to 2 inches long and have reddish-brown coloring with yellowish markings above the head area. The adults have fully developed wings, but use them more for gliding than flying. Females drop their egg case a day after it is formed usually near food or water. Egg cases contain 13-16 eggs. American roaches often live outside in groundcover (i.e. ivy), decayed trees or sewers.

Smokybrown cockroaches reach only about 1 inch and are a dark brown to black color. Adults have fully developed wings and are capable of flying or gliding. Females glue their egg case to protected surfaces near the ground. Smokybrown cockroaches generally live outside in leaf litter, trash piles and areas high in organic matter.

## Tips 'n' Tricks for Cockroaches

- monitor glueboards
- see what direction roaches are moving  
if mainly adults, probably moving in from outside; if mixture of adults & nymphs, probably infestation in home
- use different active ingredients on the same account to avoid or prolong resistance
- make sure not to contaminate baits with residual pesticides





## Scorpions

Scorpions are arachnids and are closely related to spiders, ticks and mites. These arachnids are distinctive with four pair of legs, a pair of pincers (pedipalps) and a long tail ending with a stinger (telson). Even though scorpions have four to fifteen eyes, they do not see well, relying on touch when hunting for food.

The striped bark scorpion is the most common scorpion found in Central Texas. This species is yellow to tan with two broad black stripes that run the length of its back. These scorpions grow to be about 2 1/2 inches long.

Scorpions typically hide during the day and become active at night which helps to regulate their body temperature and water balance. Scorpions have a flattened body which enables them to hide in small cracks and crevices. Striped bark scorpions are commonly found under rocks and bark as well as inside homes. They are capable of climbing trees and walls.

Scorpions typically live 3-8 years. Adults may have several clutches of brood during their lifetime. Young are born alive in transparent sacs and after freeing themselves, climb onto their mother's back. These scorpions are already capable of stinging and leave their mother to hunt on their own after a few days. Depending on food availability, scorpions

reach maturity in about a year.

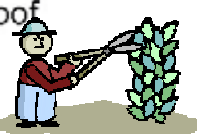
Scorpions are predaceous on other arthropods including insects, spiders, centipedes and even other scorpions. Once prey is captured, scorpions hold prey in their pincers and draw it into their mouth to feed. Scorpions sometimes sting their prey to paralyze it before feeding.

Scorpions will sting humans if disturbed. Most people have moderate reactions to the scorpions in Texas, although allergic reactions may occur. Someone who is stung by a scorpion should be monitored. If swelling or pain persists or breathing difficulties occur, seek medical attention. An ice pack can be applied to the sting area to help reduce swelling.

Try using a microencapsulated or wettable powder chemical when spraying foundations for scorpion control. This will allow the chemical to stay on the surface of the cement instead of being drawn into the tiny holes.

Encourage customers to:

- ♦ move debris (trash, logs, bricks) away from the home
- ♦ prune branches that overhang the roof
- ♦ do not store firewood in the house
- ♦ repair loose-fitting doors & windows
- ♦ replace old weather-stripping
- ♦ stuff weepholes in brick or stone homes



German cockroach



Brownbanded cockroach



American cockroach



Smokybrown cockroach

## Interesting Tidbits

- \* There are 10-30 million species of insects in the world; only 1 million are known to science.
- \* Cockroaches have been around for over 350 million years.
- \* A cockroach can live for nine days without its head.
- \* The color a head louse will be as an adult depends on the color of the person's hair in which it lives.
- \* Scorpions will fluoresce a blue-green color under black light.



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