

# Husbandry Data Sheet

**Common Name:** False Death's Head Cockroaches **Latin Name:** *Blaberus discoidalis*

**Family:** Blaberidae

**Order:** Dictyoptera

**Class:** Insecta

**Phylum:** Arthropoda

**Natural History:** The False Death's Head Cockroach (*Blaberus discoidalis*) is found throughout the northern part of South America. In the wild this species can be found in caves, holes in trees and under bark. During mating behaviour the males 'pump' their wings, raising them up and down to attract the attention of the female. This cockroach, like many others, produces a distinctive smell when attacked.

**Permits Required:** Yes

**Life Stage:** All

**Ease of Care:** Easy

## Housing:

**Temp:** 75-85 degrees F

**Humidity:** 60%-80%

**Substrate:** 50:50 mixture of sand and compost.

**# of Animals per Exhibit:** 200

**Choose One:** Colony

**Compatible Species:** N/A

**Enclosure Description:** 10 gallon aquarium.

**Lighting/Photoperiod:** Fluorescent lighting on a 12 hour period.

**Furniture/Props:** 4" plastic coated hardware cloth climbing structure and plastic tubes.

**Escape Concerns:** Although this species is not noted as being a climber, a screen cover is securely fastened to the tank.

**Other Concerns/Precautions:**

## Husbandry

**Diet/Frequency of Feeding:** Mixed vegetables and Mazuri primate biscuits

**Water Source/Frequency:** Moisture from food as well as a 4" petri dish with rocks.

**Care:** Daily

**Enrichment:** Cork bark to hide under and wire tubes for climbing structures.

**Medical/Health Concerns:** If the soil becomes too moist mites can become a challenge.

**Treatment:** Substrate change or drying out the substrate help keep the mites under control.

**Keeper Safety:** N/A

**Other Concerns/Precautions:** All old food and substrate is placed in a freezer for one week prior to being discarded to destroy any nymphs missed in cleaning.

## Education

**Do you handle species directly with the guests?** :No

**If Yes or No how do you use the species with the guest:** Displayed in a small acrylic box.

**Conservation/Population Status:** Not listed.

**Message:** Cockroaches are excellent recyclers. They eat just about everything and replenish nutrients into the soil with their feces. They also are a primary food source for many species.

**Personal Comments:**

**Submitted by (name and email):** Jamie Sincage (jamie.sincage@disney.com)

**Date:** 19-Dec-05 **Name of**

**Institution:** Disney's Animal Kingdom