

# Husbandry Data Sheet

**Common Name:** Madagascar Hissing Cockroach **Latin Name:** *Gromphadorhina portentosa*

**Family:** Blaberidae

**Order:** Blattodea

**Class:** Insecta

**Phylum:** Arthropoda

**Natural History:** Large roaches originally from Madagascar that are 40 - 75 mm long. These roaches are known for their hisses used to ward off predators or other males. Adult males have horns while females have small bumps on their pronotums. These animals feed mostly on vegetation. Nymphs reach adulthood in 8 - 13 months on average and adults generally live from 2-5 years.

**Permits Required:** Yes

**Life Stage:** All

**Ease of Care:** Easy

## Housing:

**Temp:** 75 (+/- 5) degrees F (23 - 24 degrees C)

**Humidity:** 60% RH

**Substrate:** soil mix

**# of Animals per Exhibit:** <150

**Choose One:** Colony

**Compatible Species:** N/A

**Enclosure Description:** 65 gallon glass tank and lid with circular mesh holes

**Lighting/Photoperiod:** florescent overhead; 12 hours/day

**Furniture/Props:** ghostwood with small plants and branches to rest on

**Escape Concerns:** make sure tank lid is sealed and flush because babies can escape

**Other Concerns/Precautions:** make sure to check feeding dishes and other props when removing or cleaning for babies because they can hide very easily. e sure to check feeding dishes and other props when removing or cleaning for babies because they can hide very easily.

## Husbandry

**Diet/Frequency of Feeding:** salad mix (carrots, lettuce, kale, yam); oak leaves

**Water Source/Frequency:** daily light misting

**Care:** Daily

**Enrichment:** Oak leaf house they eat away thru time

**Medical/Health Concerns:** mites come at irregular intervals but generally not a problem for long periods of time

**Treatment:**

**Keeper Safety:** cockroach feces can be a problem if there is a lot of it. Make sure that gloves are worn and nose and mouth masks are used when changing the substrate. Always wash hands after handling roaches or cleaning the tank or any props. Salmonella concerns are rare however be cautious.

**Other Concerns/Precautions:** Daily glass cleaning is generally necessary because they defecate all over it.

## Education

**Do you handle species directly with the guests? :** Yes

**If Yes or No how do you use the species with the guest:** Great for walking and touching demos

**Conservation/Population Status:**

**Message:** these animals are amazing. Explain the how and why these animals hiss; hissing patterns; basic social structure and male territorial battles...

**Personal Comments:**

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**Date:** 14-Feb-05 **Name of Institution:** Smithsonian National