

Husbandry Data Sheet

Common Name: Madagascar hissing cockroach **Latin Name:** *Gromphadorhina portentosa*

Family: Blaberidae

Order: Blattaria

Class: Insecta

Phylum: Arthropoda

Natural History: The Madagascar hissing cockroach is a large, wingless cockroach from Madagascar. This insect lives on the forest floor in rotten logs and feeds on fallen fruit. They are active during the night and hide during the day. The Madagascar hissing cockroach is a fascinating insect because of its ability to produce sound when startled to scare off predators. This hissing is also used in intraspecific communication and courtship. The life cycle of the Madagascar hissing cockroach is long and differs somewhat from most other cockroaches. Females are ovoviparous, and give birth to live young. The female carries the egg and neonate nymphs for approximately 60 days until they emerge as first instar nymphs. One female can produce as many as 30-60 nymphs. The nymphs undergo 6 molts before reaching maturity in 7 months. The nymphs and adults are wingless and can live for 2 to 5 years. Males possess large horns on the pronotum (behind the head), while females have only small 'bumps'. The presence or absence of the pronotal horns allows easy identification of the sexes. Source: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/entfacts/misc/ef014.htm>

Permits Required: Yes

Life Stage: Adult

Ease of Care: Easy

Housing:

Temp: 80 degrees (preferred but will do ok with some variation)
(preferred)

Humidity: 65%

Substrate: Eco-Earth-compressed coconut fibers or mulch

of Animals per Exhibit: 50-150 (multiple life stages)

Choose One: Colony

Compatible Species: none

Enclosure Description: 15-20 gallon aquarium with escape proof lid, line the top of the aquarium with vasoline

Lighting/Photoperiod: no special lighting needed

Furniture/Props: Various hide logs, tubes or rocks.

Escape Concerns: Lid kept on tank to prevent them from escaping, vasoline on tanks.

Other Concerns/Precautions: Tank placed on heating pad to ensure warmth if it is cold in the environment.

Husbandry

Diet/Frequency of Feeding: Feed dog food or rodent blocks, check daily. Give fruits and veggies weekly.

Water Source/Frequency: Daily, tube with cotton.

Care: Daily

Enrichment: Hide logs

Medical/Health Concerns: Have a tendency to get mites. Change bedding frequently and isolate effected specimens to control.

Treatment: Brushing off mites and sanitation (methods for removing mites - place roach in bag with flour and shake gently. Mites come off in flour. Remove roach and spray with water to remove flour; another method is to remove mites from roaches with a paintbrush. Return to a cage with clean bedding).

Keeper Safety: No concerns

Other Concerns/Precautions: Handle gently, do not allow to drop or fall

Education

Do you handle species directly with the guests? : Yes

If Yes or No how do you use the species with the guest: Can touch the roach as it sits on handlers hand.

Conservation/Population Status: not threatened

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Message:

Personal Comments:

Submitted by (name and email):Marina Haynes Date:19-Mar-06 Name of Institution:Philadelphia Zoo