

Husbandry Data Sheet

Common Name: Haitian Cockroaches **Latin Name:** *Blaberus discoidalis*

Family: Blaberidae

Order: Dictyoptera

Class: Insecta

Phylum: Arthropoda

Natural History: Adults are about 35 - 45 mm long and are tan with a dark brown to black patch on their pronotoms. Haitian cockroaches have membranous wings but are not active fliers. These roaches are basic detritivores that traditionally feed on vegetation and decaying animal matter. Adults live between 8 - 10 months. Nymphs are brown with tan speckles and generally reach adulthood in 4 to 5 months. These roaches are native to Central America and can be reared for displays but are generally used as feeder animals.

Permits Required: Yes

Life Stage: Adult

Ease of Care: Easy

Housing:

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

Humidity: 70% RH

Substrate: Orchid Bark

of Animals per Exhibit: < 150

Choose One: Colony

Compatible Species: N/A

Enclosure Description: 50 gallon acrylic tank with fan and mesh lid

Lighting/Photoperiod: plant grow light 65 watts; 12 hours

Furniture/Props: Ghostwood; various plantings

Escape Props: No props within 6 inches from the top of the tank

Other Concerns/Precautions: High humidity can cause mold, fungi, and fruit flies. To avoid these problems. Do not use fruit to feed these animals and regularly turnover the substrate. Sometimes I use a small vacuum to remove airborne fruit flies to reduce their numbers during exhibition times.

Husbandry

Diet/Frequency of Feeding: basic salad 4-5 times a week; as needed (lettuce, kale, carrot, sweet potato)

Water Source/Frequency: regular misting

Care: Daily

Enrichment: Burlap strips; hollowed out pumpkins

Medical/Health Concerns: chewed up wings

Treatment: for chewed wings - provide a protein source other than each other's wings

Keeper Safety: no issues

Other Concerns/Precautions: Regular removal of molts is necessary for aesthetics; regular misting and feeding of dry dog food is important because of molting and wing chewing issues

Education

Do you handle species directly with the guests? : No

If Yes or No how do you use the species with the guest: Roaches are very fast and not very easy to handle

Conservation/Population Status:

Message: Roaches are not gross and can be very "beautiful" and useful as detritivores; compare roaches that have wings to species that do not or have vestigial wings; or compare active fliers versus gliders.

Personal Comments:

Husbandry Data Sheet

Submitted by (name and email): Donna Stockton
Zoological Park

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