Madagascar Hissing Cockroach Fact Sheet

Common Name: Madagascar Hissing Cockroach / Hissing Cockroach

Scientific Name: Gromphadorhina portentosa

Wild Status: Least Concern

Habitat: Madagascar forests

Country: Madagascar

Shelter: Rotting Logs / Forest floors

Life Span: 2-5 years in the wild

Size: 2-3 inches

Details

The Madagascar Hissing Cockroach is one of the largest species of cockroach on the planet, and are native to the island of Madagascar in Africa. While most insects create noise by rubbing their body parts together, in a process called "stridulation", Hissing Cockroaches are different - They make their hissing sound for forcing air out of little openings called "spiracles" on the forth segment of their body. There are 3 general reasons why they will hiss - to attract mates, to announce they are disturbed, or in aggression before fighting. They are very sensitive to light so they need an area to burrow and hide away in their living areas. They are often used as feeder insects for reptiles and other pets, because they are very high protein and an enjoyable snack. Their natural habitat is the forest floor and they can often be found in rotting & decaying plant matter.

Cool Facts

• Unlike most cockroaches, these are wingless.
• Males have thicker, hairier antennae than females.
• Like their names, these cockroaches can hiss very loudly by expelling air through special openings on the fourth segment of their body.
• Males also have large "horns" and will ram each other in battle like animals with antlers would.
• Males are also larger than females.

**Taxonomic Breakdown**

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
   Class: Insecta  
   Order: Blattodea  
   Family: Blaberidae  
Subfamily: Oxyhaloinae  
Tribe: Gromphadorhini  
Genus: Gromphadorhina  
Species: G. Portentosa

**Conservation & Helping**

Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches are of least concern on the endangered species list.

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