

**Archimandrita tessellata** (a.k.a. peppered roach)

Peppered roaches range throughout Central and South America. This species ranges in size from 55-70mm, the females usually being larger and very wide. Although not one of the longest roaches, its width and sheer mass makes up for it. Peppered's are slow to mature, taking up to nine months to go from a baby to adult. Female's gestation of the egg sac can take up to six months. Typical life span ranges between 12-30 months with the females living much longer than the males. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species. This species is still very uncommon in US collections.



**Blaberus craniifer** (a.k.a. Death's head roach)

B. craniifer are found throughout Central America, Mexico, and Florida. This species ranges in size from 40-55mm in length. Most notable for its name the Death's head roach has a pattern on its pronotum that looks like a skull. There has been much debate about this species. True craniifer are very light almost white around the pronotum and have jet-black wings. Most craniifer sold in the U.S. are thought to actually be a cross or another species leaving this as still one of the hardest to find roaches. These roaches

usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 6-18 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.

**Blaberus discoidalis** (a.k.a. discoid or false death heads)

B. discoids are found throughout Central America and Mexico. This species ranges in size from 35-45mm. Although branded as false death heads these roaches have no noticeable similarities to B. craniifer. Discoids have been one of the more common feeder roaches in the US pet industry for the past few years. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 10-14 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.



**Blaberus fusca** (a.k.a. dwarf cave roach)

B. fusca is found mainly in South America. This species ranges in size from 55-78mm. Given its nickname to from the longer B. giganteus, B. fusca is distinguished by a black band across its mid-section. Although not as long as the giganteus this roach tends to weigh more as its very bulky. I have only kept these roaches for a short time, but the seem to be great breeders and will most likely join a few other as top feeder roaches. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will



live another 8-12 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.

**Blaberus parabolicus** (a.k.a. black headed roach)

B. parabolicus are typically found in Peru. This species ranges in size from 50-60mm. Although still hard to find in the U.S. this is one of the faster breeding and longer lived of the Blaberus species and becoming more popular. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 12-24 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.



**Blaptica dubia** (a.k.a. Guyana orange spotted roach)

B. dubia is found throughout Central and South America including French Guyana. This species ranges in size from 42-50mm. B. dubia is a very popular feeder roach in Europe and has been increasingly popular in the U.S. This is my favorite roach by far. Very good breeders, long-lived, calm, and very little odor make this an excellent roach. If you're looking for a feeder, look no further. Another thing I really like about this species is while mature males get full wings, females only have little stubs making them one of

the easiest roaches to sex. Also, this roach is very mellow compared to the blaberus species. Often during cleaning nymphs will play dead and this species is very easy to handle. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 12-24months. Males of this species have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.

**Eublaberus prosticus** (a.k.a. orange head roach)

E. prosticus are found throughout Central and South America. This species ranges in size from 38-48mm. Orange heads get their name from the bright orange colors this roach achieves at adulthood. Orange heads are notorious wing biters and require an abundant source of high protein food. A little more aggressive than other roaches these guys will eat other freshly molted invertebrates, so giving them enough space is key. This species in large group also has one of the stronger defense odors. Although it doesn't bother me, some people do not like it at all. This species breeds very well and can make excellent feeders. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 12-24 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing\flying species.



**Nauphoeta cinerea** (a.k.a. lobster roach)

These roaches are found in throughout Central and South America, Mexico and many other tropical places. This species ranges in size from 23-26mm. Lobsters are commonly used in the U.S. as feeders because they reproduce so fast and are similar in size to crickets. In no time you can go from hundreds to thousands. The downside to this species is they are great climbers. Products such as bug stop or Vaseline can be applied around the top of their container to prevent escapees. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3 months and then will live another 12-24 months. Both males and females have wings and can climb, but not fly.

**Blaberus giganteus** (a.k.a. giant cave roach)

B. giganteus is found in the West Indies and throughout Central and South America. This species ranges in size from 73-90mm. This roach does not let its name down. It is one on the largest species kept by roach enthusiast. These roaches take 9-12 months to reach adulthood, which is considerably longer, then most blaberus species. Life spans after adulthood range for 3-15 months. This is a non-climbing species and both males and females get large wings (wing spans of up to 5"). Upon final molt females are too heavy to fly, but lighter males will attempt flight. Although not able to sustain flight for long these males can jump a couple of feet high. These are easily kept in a container with a lid, and will not be flying when you open it. They usually only jump around when males are fighting.

**Blatta lateralis** (a.k.a. Turkistan roach)

B. lateralis are typically found in tropical areas, Asia, Africa, and even the U.S. This species ranges in size from 22-28mm and is one of the smallest non-climbers I've found. This species makes up for its lack of size with speed. This is also a very prolific species in captivity. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 3-5 months and then will live another 6-12 months.



**Eublaberus distanti** (a.k.a. six-spotted roach)

E. distanti are found mainly in the West Indies. This species ranges in size from 40-50mm. This species gets its nickname from six brownish-orange spots it has as nymphs. I also like to refer to these guys as little tanks, because as nymphs they get very large and weigh more than most species. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 4-8 months and then will live another 12-24 months. Both males and females have wings, but this is a non-climbing/flying species.



**Polyphaga aegyptica** (a.k.a. desert roach)

P. aegyptica are found mainly in Northern Africa. This species ranges in size from 24-33mm and is one of the smaller non-climbers on the market. Just like B. dubia, males of this species get wings and females do not. This species is very hardy, often being able to survive without water for extended periods. These roaches usually reach adulthood in 4-6 months and then will live another 10-15 months.