



Madagascar Hissing Cockroach (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*)

- Madagascar Hissing cockroaches are native to Madagascar, and are large, wingless reddish brown species of cockroaches.
- Males can be distinguished from females by their pronounced “horns” on their thoraxes.
- This specie’s ability to “hiss” is created by expelling air through a series of linear pores along the insect’s abdomen.
- If provided the proper care, these Madagascar hissing cockroaches can attain longevity of up to 5 years.

Size

Up to 2 to 3” as adults.

Housing

Housing must be sealed and escape proof, as well as adequately ventilated. A secured, 5 to 10 gallon aquarium, terrarium or similar sized tub or container with an appropriate lid is recommended. Orchard or coconut fiber substrate can then be used as acceptable substrates. In addition, furnishings for allowing these insects climbing and hiding opportunities should also be provided, and can include egg crates, cardboard tubes, or commercially available cork hides. For water and hydration, misting at least once every few days is also recommended (or more frequently in areas of drier humidity).

Madagascar hissing cockroaches do not require any additional lighting or heating, and should be maintained at around room temperature from 70-85 degrees F.

Spot clean the enclosure for wastes, feces, or uneaten food at least once per week. Be sure to periodically replace the substrate, clean, and disinfect the enclosure and its furnishings at minimum every 2-3 months.

Feeding/Diet

Madagascar hissing cockroaches are herbivorous to detritivorous, and will feed on a variety of fruit, vegetable, and other plant matter. Some of the foods that can be given every few days can include carrots, romaine lettuce and other leafy greens, oranges, apples, squash, and other fruits and vegetables.

Handling

Madagascar hissing cockroaches are a large, slow moving, and docile species of cockroach that can be handled. Care should obviously be taken to not drop or otherwise injure them, however.

Also be sure to practice basic cleanliness and hygiene associated with proper husbandry after touching or handling any animals or animal enclosures to prevent the possibility of contracting salmonellosis or any other zoonotic pathogens