



Kimberly Schofield
Program Specialist-Urban IPM
k-schofield@tamu.edu

Another Invading Cockroach.....the Asian Cockroach

The Asian cockroach, *Blattella asahinai* was recently discovered in Harris County, in Houston, TX this year. It is only a matter of time before this cockroach could be found in North Texas. Asian cockroaches resemble German cockroaches, but they have different habits. The Asian cockroaches can be found both in human dwellings and in areas away from human habitats, unlike the German cockroach that will only be found in human dwellings. Outdoors, Asian cockroaches prefer areas that are shaded or covered with leaf litter or grass.

Asian cockroaches are most active one hour after sunset and they are excellent flyers. They will crawl on the grass blades or trees and then fly to the lights at night. If these lights are close to structures, then these roaches could gain entrance into the buildings. They can live in large colonies of 30,000 to 250,000 per acre and they can fly up to 120 feet in a single flight. The Asian cockroach's ability to fly, high reproductive potential, and outdoor living habitat will make it hard to manage this cockroach.

Some Control Options:

Non-Chemical Control Options:

Seal any cracks a 1/8 inch or more in the foundation, walls, ceilings, and around air conditioning units, windows, doors, electrical outlets, pipes or other openings.

Keep trash and stacks of firewood away from the home or garage.

Garbage cans, racks, platforms or slabs should be cleaned regularly.

Chemical Control Options:

Since this cockroach occasionally invades structures, indoor and perimeter applications of insecticides are effective such as those containing bifenthrin, permethrin or pyriproxyfen.



Adult female Asian cockroach, *Blattella asahinai* Mizukubo, carrying an egg case (ootheca). Photograph by: R.W. Baldwin, University of Florida.

Mention of commercial products is for educational purposes only and does not represent endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension or The Texas A&M University System. Insecticide label registrations are subject to change, and changes may have occurred since this publication was printed. The pesticide user is always responsible for applying products in accordance with label directions. Always read and carefully follow the instructions on the container label.