Sexual dimorphism in pill cockroach *Perisphaerus* sp.

**Subject**: Pill cockroach, *Perisphaerus* sp. (Insecta: Blattaria: Blaberidae).

**Subject identified by**: Contributor.

**Location, date and time**: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Jungle Fall Valley; 19 February 2005; evening.

**Habitat**: Primary lowland forest.

**Observer**: Contributor.

**Observation**: A pair of pill cockroaches, each about 2 cm in total length, was observed engaged in copulation on a palm leaf about 90 cm off the ground. They were observed for about 5 minutes during which they did not move.

**Remarks**: This observation illustrates the distinct sexual dimorphism in pill cockroaches. The female is apterous (without tegmina and wings) with a hard and shiny armour-like exoskeleton, and able to roll into a ball when alarmed (Bell et al., 2007). The male is the one with tegmina and wings, smaller and depressed in appearance, and with a somewhat triangular pronotum. Female pill cockroaches are quite common, but the males are rarely seen and may not be recognized as conspecific.


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