

Cockroach feeding on termites

Subjects: Cockroach, unidentified genus and species (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattidae).
Termite, unidentified genus and species (Insecta: Isoptera: Termitidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Lower Peirce forest; 28 April 2014; 2022 hrs.

Habitat: Mature secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A cockroach of about 4 cm body length was observed at about 2 m up on a tree trunk beside a congregation of tree-dwelling termites, picking the insects off one by one, and eating them (see accompanying picture). The termites seemed to be defenceless against the predatory cockroach.

Remarks: The common American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*, has been documented preying on termites (Bell et al., 2007: 71). Although the cockroach featured here resemble the American cockroach, this yet to be identified species differs in having a broad yellow band over the posterior edge of its blackish pronotum. It is a native species that only inhabits mature forest where it is arboreal.

Reference: Bell, W. J., L. M. Roth & C. A. Nalepa, 2007. *Cockroaches. Ecology, Behavior, and Natural History*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA. xiii + 230 pp.



Photograph by Nick Baker

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