

MONITORING GUIDE

COCKROACHES

German Cockroach



'2000' Trap



Product No.2050301

Detector Trap



GENERAL INFORMATION

Not long ago it was almost unheard of to find cockroach infestations outside of urban areas, but with increasing international trade and the movement of people around the country, the cockroach population has spread even to rural areas. The spread is also due to the fact that our living premises provide the ideal habitat for roaches and our control measures have been inadequate.

The most important issue in controlling this insect is first and foremost to find out their exact location and their behaviour. The routine chemical treatment of premises is not an alternative to proper diagnosis, since it may be unnecessarily costly and eventually lead to additional problems such as insect resistance to pesticides.

A proper monitoring program can provide a wealth of information, and can be carried out by both operators and clients to achieve the following:

- confirm the presence or absence of roaches in any location
- help pinpoint the exact location and sources of those infestations
- estimate the magnitude of the infestation
- confirm the effectiveness of both previous and current chemical treatments
- make savings by reducing unnecessary chemical treatments
- maintain a continuous vigilance against re-infestation

In order to get this information, the correct type of monitoring trap must be used. This trap must be consistent in its performance and have a stronger power of attraction to roaches than the surrounding alternative food sources. These traps must be regularly monitored and the information recorded.

MONITORING TRAPS

There are many different roach traps on the market, but they differ greatly in their effectiveness. The single most important feature of a roach trap is the attractant, since this determines whether there are nymphs, gravid females as well as adult males present.

A large number of traps found on the North American market are baited with fish oil or palm oil incorporated into the glue, however one trap that was developed in the UK by Agrisense-BCS contained a combined food attractant/pheromone mimic bait – the **GP2 lure**. Independent comparison trials of a selection of North American traps showed that the attractancy of the trap with the **GP2 lure** was far superior to all the others - it is for this reason that we use it in our traps.

In the mid 1990's, Cooper Mill began to re-design the traditional Lo-Line Roach trap in an attempt to make it more attractive to the insect, including having it darker inside, and lower in profile to resemble the kind of protective environment that the roach would normally seek out. For economic reasons, the trap contained a removable sticky insert, so that it could be serviced more readily and also re-used. The outside of the trap was printed with a plain dark colour devoid of any lettering, so that it would be less obtrusive in a residential setting. The dark internal surface also helped to reduce the drying out of the glue caused by UV light, and the trap shell was recyclable. This trap was named the '**2000 Trap**'.

TRAP PLACEMENT

In order to find the sources of infestation, it is important to check all areas where sightings have been reported or droppings are found. Particular attention should be paid to any area where food is stored, processed, cooked or served, and where there may be a source of water, either from leakage or condensation on pipes. This means that the primary target areas will be kitchens and bathrooms. However, don't be fooled into thinking that these are the only areas where roaches may be

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found. Books are often targeted by roaches on account of their glue bindings, and clothes storage cupboards aren't immune either, so keep an open mind and check everywhere that a roach may gain access. If you are dealing with a new location and are uncertain about the insect harbourage areas, distribute a large number of the more economical **Detector** traps with the **GP2** lure, throughout the building. Check these traps frequently and a pattern of insect distribution will emerge to guide you toward areas of highest insect population. Once these areas have been identified, make a plan, prepare a number of the '**2000 Traps**', and mark them on the underside with the location and date.

To set up the '2000' trap:

- fold along the pre-marked lines shown on the assembly diagram
- make sure that the ends of the trap form the necessary 'lip' that the roach has to climb over in order to get into the trap - this lip is important since it unbalances the roach as it drops down onto the glued insert and makes escape by 'backing up' more difficult for the roach
- remove the **GP2 lure** from the sealed pouch and place it in the centre of the glued insert, then slide the insert into the trap

There is no absolute number of traps that must be placed - a guideline is 2 traps in 10 sq. metres, but this can vary with the severity of the infestation. The lure will be effective for 6 weeks or more under most conditions, but in areas of high moisture, the lure will decompose faster and need replacing more often. If kept in cool conditions, the **GP2** tablet will keep for 3 years in its pouch.

Gaining information is the purpose of monitoring, so traps must be checked on a regular basis and the catches recorded. The traps should be left in the same position after checking. If the sticky insert is largely covered with trapped roaches, replace the insert and lure. There is no need to remove the trap if only a few roaches are caught on it, since these trapped roaches often release an aggregation pheromone that will attract more roaches to the trap.

Roaches only spend about 17% of their time feeding, and in the case of gravid females, even less, so keep the traps in place and delay making any decision on chemical treatment until you have a good picture of where it is necessary. Try and place the traps in darker, shaded areas, since roaches often avoid brightly lit areas.

Many chemical treatments, especially synthetic pyrethroids, are repellent to roaches, and may cause some to move to other areas and escape the treatment, so after having treated an area, put out new traps to confirm the success of the treatment and to avoid surprise areas of re-infestation.

STORAGE AND HANDLING OF TRAPS

It is important to store monitoring traps and attractants where they will not be cross contaminated by chemicals or damaged by heat. This means that care should be taken not to leave them in a parked vehicle during a hot day, also when handling other chemicals, be careful not to handle the lures more than necessary, since unwashed hands may in turn contaminate the lures and cause them to be repellent.

SUMMARY

When monitoring any insects, it is very important to understand both the life cycle and behaviour of those insects. For example, the '**2000 Trap**' will attract and catch the tiny semi-transparent nymphs as well as adults, and in colder regions these cockroach nymphs can take 3 months or more to develop into adults which can re-emerge a long time after any treatment. The on-going use of traps is important since it will help to capture many of the remaining roaches, and will give a good early warning system of any new infestation. You can't beat an inspection system that works 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

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