

Hissing cockroach

Invertebrate - has no backbone

Insect - has 6 legs, 3 parts to its body, one pair of antennae and an exoskeleton



Habitat

Lives on the tropical forest floor amongst dead leaves and rotten logs.



Where



Diet

HERBIVORE

They eat most vegetation which is decomposing on the forest floor (e.g. dead leaves, vegetables and fruit). They will also eat dead animals.

Protection from predators

They hiss by exhaling air through their breathing holes (spiracles) mimicing a snake. They are also well camouflaged in their habitat.

Behaviour

They are mainly active at night.

Nocturnal

They live in family groups with a dominant male. Males have two bumps (like horns) on their exoskeleton that they use to defend their territory

Interesting facts

They have a hard outer covering called an exoskeleton which they moult several times as they grow to reach their adult size. This is also very flexible so they can squeeze into small spaces.



They have special hooks on the end of their legs which give them a good grip. This makes them excellent climbers and fast movers.

A female can produce 750 young in her lifetime, giving birth to the young that hatch from eggs inside her body. She carries the eggs/young cockroaches around for up to 60 days.

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