

Gisborne cockroach (*Drymaplaneta semivitta*)



Adult female (left) and male (right)

Photo by G. Arakelian

Other names used: Western wood runner.

Distribution: Native to Australian mainland. Introduced into New Zealand and Tasmania.

In the Western Hemisphere, *D. semivitta* was first discovered in Pacific Palisades (Los Angeles County), California in October 2020.

Field ID: Medium to large size cockroaches. Adults (20-45 mm long) are wingless, with glossy dark brown to black bodies and white to cream color stripes along the sides of their heads and thoraxes.

Males have distinctive, flattened hind tibia and enlarged third and fourth segments of maxillary palps.

Nymphs initially have light brown bodies. Later instars display dark brown to black color markings on their abdominal segments.



Males with flattened hind tibia



Males (ventral view) with enlarged 3rd and 4th segments of maxillary palps

Hosts and damage:

D. semivitta is often found under various logs, ground covers, leaf litter, decks, plant pots, inside electrical and irrigation boxes.

They occasionally gain entry to different residential and commercial buildings through windows and doors that are not properly sealed or hitchhiking on firewood or household items.

Gisborne cockroaches prefer to stay outdoors but may enter structures during extreme weather conditions.

D. semivitta is a nocturnal species that feeds on various organic (often decaying) matter.

It is recorded as a common domestic (minor nuisance) pest in various buildings in Australia and New Zealand.

Gisborne cockroaches possess strong odorous defensive secretions which they readily use during self-protection.