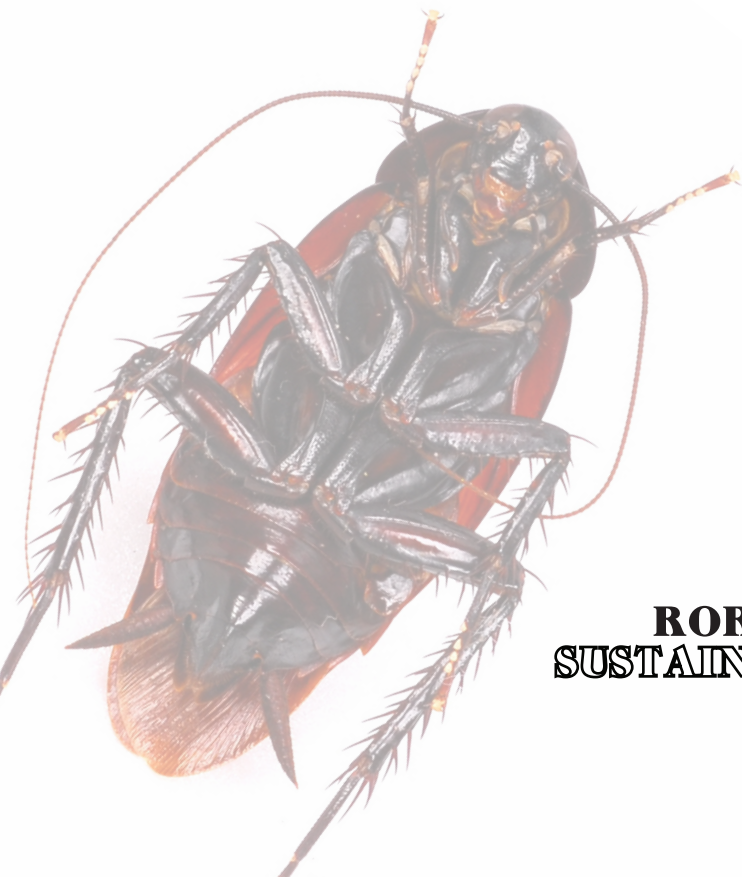


URBAN ECOLOGY STUDY:

YAMATO COCKROACH (PERIPLANETA JAPONICA)



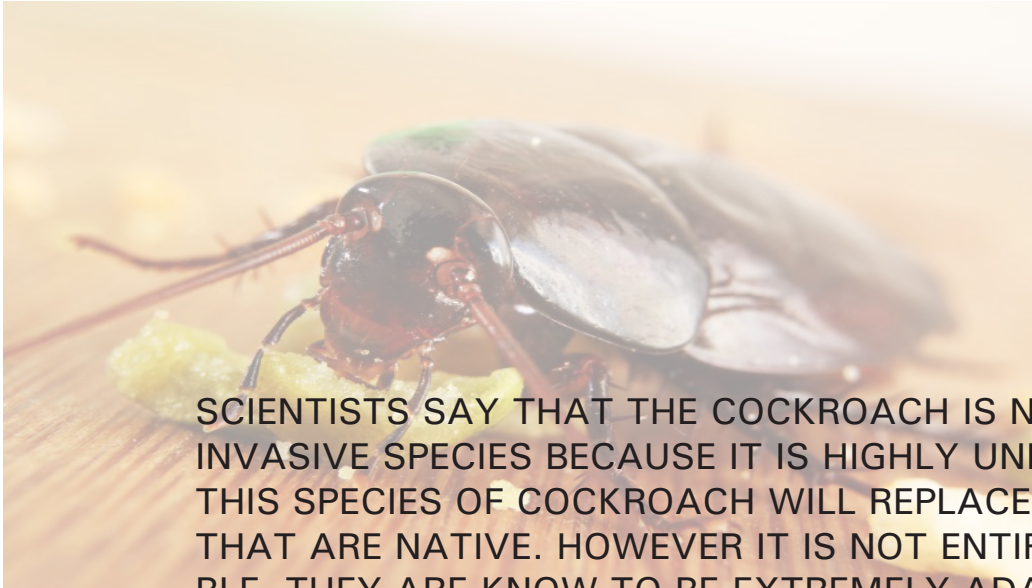
**RORY ARTHUR
SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS
2017**

RESEARCH:

PICTURED HERE IS A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PERIPLANETA JAPONICA (LEFT) AND THE TURKES-TAN COCKROACH. IT IS AN INVA-SIVE SPECIES FROM JAPAN AND IS FAMOUS FOR IT'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE AN ATOMIC BLAST, BEING WINDPROOF AND HIGHLY RESIS-TANT TO COLD TEMPERATURES.



THEY LIKELY TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES IN BOXED PLANTS AND WERE FIRST SPOTTED AT THE HIGHLINE PARK IN 2012 BY AN EXTERMINATOR. IT WAS TAKEN TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY SO SCIENTISTS CAN OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION. THE INSECT HAS A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF ANYWHERE FROM 1 TO 2 YEARS.



SCIENTISTS SAY THAT THE COCKROACH IS NOT A TRUE INVASIVE SPECIES BECAUSE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THIS SPECIES OF COCKROACH WILL REPLACE THE ONES THAT ARE NATIVE. HOWEVER IT IS NOT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE. THEY ARE KNOWN TO BE EXTREMELY ADAPTIVE TO ENVIRONMENTS AND THRIVE ON ICE WITHOUT SHELTER.

POPULATIONS ARE ALSO KNOWN TO THRIVE IN RUSSIA, CHINA, AND KOREA. EXPERTS ARE NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THIS SPECIES OF COCKROACH IS ABLE TO MATE WITH OTHER SPECIES. IT IS ALSO UNDETERMINED HOW MUCH THE POPULATION OF THIS SPECIES IS PROJECTED TO GROW OR HOW MANY CURRENTLY INHABIT NEW YORK.



JOURNAL / LOG

SEPTEMBER 29TH 11:29PM

WALKING BACK TO MY DORM I HEARD A FLUTTERING FROM THE GROUND AND SAW THE COCKROACH SCURRY INTO A PIPE. I WAS TOO SLOW TO TAKE A PICTURE, HOWEVER I WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY THAT IT WAS INDEED THE CORRECT SPECIES

OCTOBER 6TH 4.32PM

I WENT TO TWO-BROS PIZZA ON SAINT MARKS AND NOTICED A HUMONGOUS COCKROACH CHILLING ON THE FAMOUS SEARCH AND DESTROY STEPS. I TOOK OUT MY PHONE AND ATTEMPTED TO TAKE A PHOTO BUT IT WAS SPOOKED AND RAN AWAY.

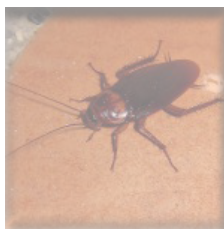
OCTOBER 7TH 8:46PM

I READ AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE NEW SPECIES OF COCKROACH INVADING NEW YORK CITY WHILE I WAS IN A BO-DEGA IN BROOKLYN. IT IS AMAZING HOW MUCH TOPICS SURFACE WHEN YOU'RE IN A CERTAIN MINDSET.

NOVEMBER 3RD 6:04AM

I SET OUT TO HUNT DOWN THE COCKROACH. I SPENT ABOUT FOUR HOURS WALKING AROUND LOOKING IN CREVICES AROUND CHINATOWN. I HAD NO LUCK BUT ON MY WAY BACK TO THE DORM I SAW THREE OF THEM RUNNING IN VARIOUS DIRECTIONS AND WAS OUTMANEUVERED.

NOVEMBER 14TH 2:55AM

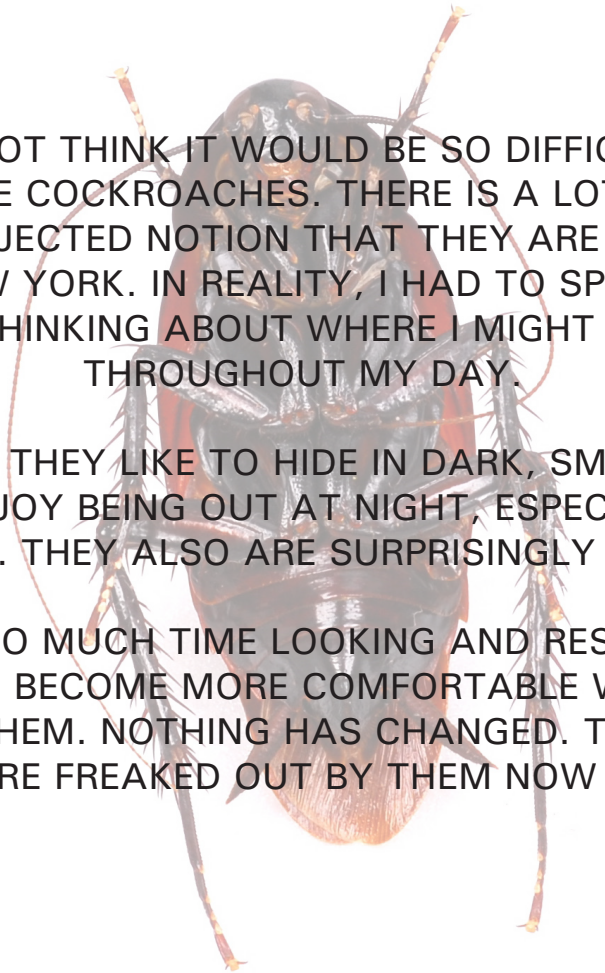


FINALLY WAS ABLE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THE COCKROACH ON MY WAY TO THE UNIVERSITY CENTER STUDIOS. TWO OF MY FRIENDS HAD IT CORNED WHICH BOUGHT ME ENOUGH TIME TO WHIP OUT MY PHONE AND TAKE A FLICK.

NOVEMBER 29TH 4:21AM

ON THE SUBWAY ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK I SAW A FEW COCKROACHES OF PERIPLANETA JAPONICA VARIETY INSIDE A CARDBOARD BOX AT THE LEXINGTON 63RD ST. STATION.

REFLECTIONS



I HONESTLY DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE SO DIFFICULT TO FIND AND DOCUMENT THESE COCKROACHES. THERE IS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT THEM AND A PROJECTED NOTION THAT THEY ARE DOMINATING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK. IN REALITY, I HAD TO SPEND HOURS AND CONSTANTLY BE THINKING ABOUT WHERE I MIGHT FIND ONE LURKING THROUGHOUT MY DAY.

I LEARNED THAT THEY LIKE TO HIDE IN DARK, SMALL, AND MOIST PLACES. THEY ENJOY BEING OUT AT NIGHT, ESPECIALLY ON COLDER NIGHTS. THEY ALSO ARE SURPRISINGLY HEAVY.

AFTER SPENDING SO MUCH TIME LOOKING AND RESEARCHING THEM, I THOUGHT I WOULD BECOME MORE COMFORTABLE WITH LOOKING AND WORKING WITH THEM. NOTHING HAS CHANGED. TO BE FRANK, I AM PROBABLY MORE FREAKED OUT BY THEM NOW THAN BEFORE.

CITATIONS

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