

Lord Howe Island Wood-feeding Cockroach (*Panesthia lata*)

Description

Large wingless wood-eating Cockroach with a length of between 22 – 40mm. Its colour ranges from red to black with a metallic sheen.

Conservation Significance

Endemic.

Listed as Endangered under the NSW TSC Act 1995.

Distribution

In Australia there are 11 species of *Panesthia*, all endemic. The Lord Howe Island Cockroach is only known from offshore islands (Blackburn and Roach Islands).

Ecology

Burrows in soil under rocks and logs. Feeds on leaf litter and rotting wood.

Population data/health

This species once occurred abundantly on the main Island. It was known from collections by the Australian Museum, with the last collections on the main island being in the 1930's.

Habitat

Damp shaded locations.

Threats

Most probable cause of decline is the introduced Rat; mice may also prey upon juveniles of this species.

Impact on other species

Unknown.

References

Etheridge R. jnr. 1889. *Australian Museum Memoirs* No. 2 page 31.

Rose H. 2003. Research Report on *Panesthia lata* Blaberid Cockroach 25-29 March 2003.

NSW Scientific Committee 2003. Nomination for Listing *Panesthia lata* as an endangered species.



Photo: Ian Hutton

LHI bush cockroach (*Panesthia lata*)