



'MACROBUG'



Litter Bug - Giant BurrowingCockroach (Macropanesthia rhinoceros)

FEEDING

This insect is easy to maintain as it eats mainly dead dry leaves as well as dried bark, grass and twig material. This food supply is best collected straight off the forest floor. Avoid areas exposed to any poisons. Add a small amount of leaves to the bottom of the tank and store the rest for future feeding.

For water source add a damp tissue-bell once or twice a week. These insects only **EAT DEAD DRY LEAVES**, green or wet leaves are no good.

Tip: If leaves are wet, dry in a slow oven till crisp.

Avoid feeding dog food as it may contain harmful ingredients.

HOUSING

Housing can consist of a suitably sized glass tank or other container, allowing a very small amount of ventilation. (Condensation in the tank is a major factor for the correct environment for the litter bug). Add a layer of fine moist sand to the tank.

***Important:** Avoid a wet tank, instead vary from a moist sand mix one end of the tank to a little drier the other end. As your litter bug works the tank, the sand will take on the correct consistency. Look for condensation forming. If tank does dry out, add moisture by misting lightly with a hand sprayer.

For a water source add the moist tissue (as above).

Clean tank when leaves are too old (no longer being eaten along the edges).



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BREEDING

Litter bugs will breed at around 4 years of age. Females have live babes around October to November. (It is a good idea to house the male separately at this time). Fresh white babies will be seen running under the mother. They can stay together quite happily for many months. Babies can be housed separately at anytime after a period of around 4 months or if overcrowding becomes a problem.

Male litter bugs are easily identified with their deep bulldozer-like scoop in their thorax (above their head).

INTERESTING FACTS

- The giant burrowing cockroach is the world's largest burrowing cockroach, found only in north-eastern Australia.
- They live around one metre underground in a little chamber full of leaves and other favoured food.
- Giant burrowing cockroaches have been recorded to live up for 10 years
- Litter bugs like all bush cockroaches are in fact clean and disease free, unlike their relatives the household cockroach.

BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY!

If you are unable or tired of looking after your insect, please don't release it into your local area. Instead, contact your local museum, zoo or other research or education facility and see if they would like to adopt your insect.



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