

THE PROBLEM OF *PERIPLANETA AMERICANA* IN EASTERN SPAIN

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From the sanitary point of view one of the greatest pest problems encountered in the cities of eastern Spain, is the American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*.

In this area, sewer systems provide very good conditions for harbourage and breeding places of populations of cockroaches. In 1987, *Blatta orientalis* was the major pest, but *Periplaneta americana* is the most common species now. Favourable conditions increase pest populations and all programmes of pest control in the area have generally reacted to the high pest density.

During 1995, under the supervision of the Laboratory of Entomology and Pest Control of the University of Valencia, a programme to control *Periplaneta americana* in the city of Valencia (Spain) was carried out. The area under treatment was 136 km².

For the reasons above mentioned, we designed a programme of control with different levels of treatment for each season, using different insecticides. After the treatment we evaluated the efficacy and, if necessary, changed the conditions of the new treatment. At the same time we calculated the volume of the compound used more effectively in relation to the treated surface.

In addition we set up a data base to provide punctual and accurate knowledge about the foci of treatment at any time.

The results obtained from the programme on the efficacy of the insecticides used, quantity used and all complementary measures of the campaign are presented in this poster.