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## Introduction

STIMULATED BY THE RECENT INTRODUCTION of the Asian cockroach, *Blattella asahinai* Mizukubo, into Florida, we began to examine patterns of distribution and ecology of native and exotic cockroaches in the United States. Despite the enormous economic impact of several important pest species, there has been very little recent taxonomic work on cockroaches in the United States. Because of the lack of a current treatment, we began reviewing the available literature to estimate current geographical distributions and ecology of native and exotic species. Published records were complemented by examining specimens in major United States collections and regional collections from the southern United States, the area with the greatest number of cockroach species. These data are presented here. Synonymies and important taxonomic and ecological references are also given for each species.

The most recent comprehensive treatment of the taxonomy of the cockroaches of the contiguous 48 states of the United States and Canada was that of Hebard (1917). Pratt (1988) published the first updated checklist of United States species but did not include information on distribution, synonymy, or ecology and did not critically review the status of all the species he listed. Regional treatments subsequent to Hebard's monograph include Alabama (Dakin & Hays 1970), Arizona (Hebard 1935b, Ball et al. 1942), Colorado (Hebard 1929), Florida (Atkinson et al. 1990a), Illinois (Hebard 1934), Indiana (Blatchley 1920), Iowa (Froeschner 1954), Kansas (Hebard 1931), Michigan (Cantrall 1968), Minnesota (Hebard 1932), Montana (Hebard 1928), New England (Morse 1920), Oklahoma (Hebard 1938), South Dakota (Hebard 1925), and Texas (Hebard 1943). Generic revisions relevant to the United States include *Arenivaga* (Hebard 1920), *Blattella* (Roth 1985), and *Symploce* (Roth 1984).

Based on a critical review of the literature and museum specimens, we conclude that breeding populations of 69 species of cockroaches may be found in the continental United States and Canada. Pratt (1988) listed 66 species for North America north of Mexico. Closer examination of the taxonomic literature shows that four species listed by Pratt, *Euthlastoblatta diaphana* (F.), *Arenivaga rehni* Hebard, *Holocompsa azteca* Saussure, and *Ischnoptera rufa*