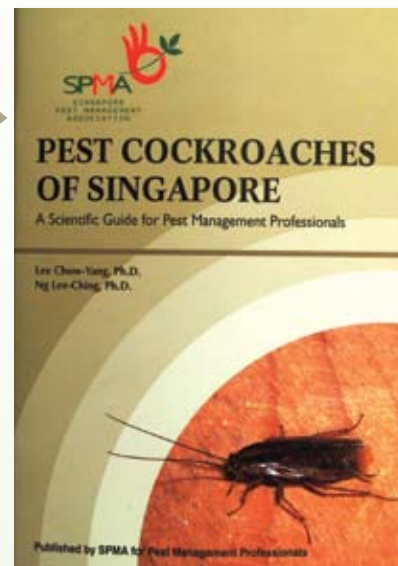


# PEST COCKROACHES OF SINGAPORE

Singapore Pest Management Association launched the first book on pest cockroaches of Singapore, based on studies conducted on cockroaches collected from all over the island by members of the industry. Some 200 participants including National Environment Agency Director-General Khoo Seow Poh, NEA and EHI officers and national association leaders from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, attended the seminar held in conjunction with the launch. NEA Chief Executive Officer Andrew Tan graced the occasion.

Co-authored by Professor Lee Chow Yang from Universiti Sains Malaysia and Dr Ng Lee Ching from Environmental Health Institute Singapore, this publication confirmed that the 9 common cockroaches, some with very unusual names, are:

- American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*
- Australian cockroach, *Periplaneta australasiae*
- Brown cockroach, *Periplaneta brunnea*
- Brown-banded cockroach, *Supella longipalpa*
- German cockroach, *Blattella germanica*
- Harlequin cockroach, *Neostylopyga rhombifolia*
- Lobster cockroach, *Nauphoeta cinerea*
- Smooth cockroach, *Symptloce pallens*
- Surinam cockroach, *Pycnoscelus surinamensis*



Aardwolf Pestkare team at the launch.

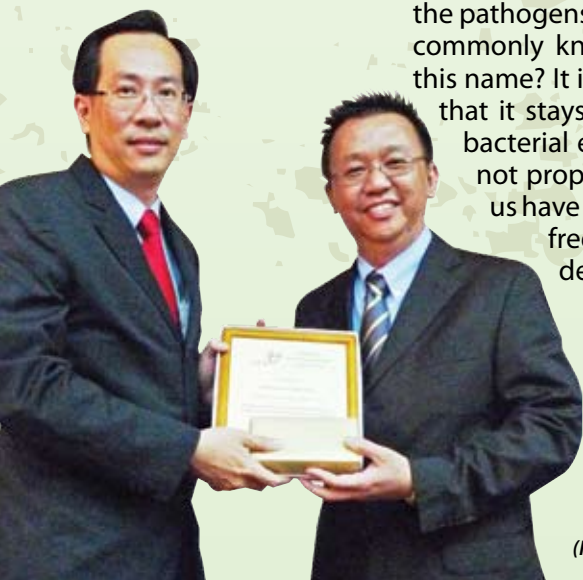


If you wish to find out what these cockroaches look like, ask any of our staff serving you. He or she has a copy of this Identification Key to show you.

Professor Lee revealed the occurrence of high level of resistance to deltamethrin amongst the German cockroaches. This finding corresponded well with the earlier study by National University of Singapore on German cockroaches from Singapore hotels (Choo LEW, CS Tang, FY Pang & SH Ho, 2000). The explanation offered was that deltamethrin in emulsifiable concentrate formulation is a popular choice of pest management companies in Singapore over the years and was used heavily and very frequently due to its low cost as it is widely available as generic formulations.

Dr Ng disclosed that her laboratory isolated a total of 59 bacterial species of which 36 were pathogenic. Among the pathogens was *Bacillus cereus* that causes diarrhoea, commonly known as the "Fried Rice Syndrome". Why this name? It is because cooked rice is left overnight so that it stays fluffy when fried but unfortunately the bacterial endospores survive when the fried rice is not properly re-heated. But do not panic. Most of us have developed some tolerance because of our frequent exposure (something like cockroach developing resistance to pesticides!).

Interestingly Professor Lee confirmed that despite its exotic name the Oriental cockroach, *Blatta orientalis* is not resident in Singapore. It is commonly found in the temperate countries.



(From left) Professor Lee Chow Yang being thanked by SPMA President Andrew Chan ....



Chairman of the cockroach project Patrick Koh



..... and so was Dr Ng Lee Ching.