

Morphological and Molecular Identification of American Cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana* L.) in Jeddah Province

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ABSTRACT

Cockroaches belong to the order Blattodea and among them, best-known species is *Periplaneta americana*. They play an important role in the transmission of different pathogens because of their way of living. The morphological and molecular identification studies of *P. americana* were not enough in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially in Jeddah governorate. In this study, *P. americana* collected from various locations in Jeddah were morphology described and sequenced using universal primers for bio identification of cytochrome oxidase gene (CO1). Our results showed clear and un-described morphological features before of *P. americana* male and female. The molecular analysis of *P. americana* showed two accession numbers with high similarities, "JQ267485.1" with 96-100% and "KM576926.1" with 92-96%. The present study provides important information about the morphological and genetic variation in *P. americana* species, which can be used in further studies of *P. americana* in Jeddah province.

Keywords: *P. americana*, Morphology, Molecular, Jeddah, mtDNA, CO1 gene

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