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The Feeding of Giant Hissing Cockroaches with Leaves

Giant Madagascar hissing cockroaches simply referred to as 'Hissers' are found in the Southeast coast of Africa. The scientific name is *Gromphadorhina portentosa*. They are wingless bugs with a single pair of antennae. Hissers feed on varieties of foods such as fruits and vegetables. In this experiment, I hypothesized that if Giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches are fed with some lambs ear leaves and romaine lettuce then, I think they will eat.

Hissers were placed inside a glass aquarium cage, filled with 2-3 inches of sandy soil, some dead leaves, logs of wood for shelter and a rock was placed between the sand and the logs to maintain their natural habitat. These materials were moistened to give humidity to the Hissers. A detachable heating mat was placed under the glass cage to keep them warm and active.

Hissers were fed three times at different intervals of days with varied grams of romaine lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) and lambs ear (*stachys byzantina*) leaves. I expect the hissers to consume less of the lambs' ear because of its fuzzy texture. According to research, lamb ear is not contained in the list of hisser's foods. The quantities of the lamb's ear they eat were determined after twenty four hours. The results support my hypothesis. At each trial of feed, the Hissers consumed both the romaine lettuce and the lambs' ear as shown in the table of data collections. These investigations led me to believe that the Hissers feed on varieties of leaves when kept in a good habitat and under a favorable heating temperature.