



Cockroaches are vectors for transmitting pathogenic micro-organisms

Residents in long-term care facilities and nursing homes have a relative higher risk for infections. The nocturnal and filthy habits of cockroaches may be ideal disseminators of pathogenic microorganisms in these institutions. This study was designed to determine the infestation and vector potential of cockroaches under this institutional environment. Cockroaches were collected from 69 long-term care facilities and nursing homes in Kaohsiung City.

Risk factors related to cockroach infestation were determined by questionnaire survey. In addition, bacteria were isolated and identified from the alimentary tract and external surface of these insects. Antibiotic resistance of these microorganisms were then determined. Cockroach infestation was found in 45 (65.2%) institutions and 558 cockroaches (119 *Periplaneta americana* and 439 *Blattellagermanica*) were collected. A significant

association was found between cockroach infestation and indoor environmental sanitation. From 250 adult cockroaches, 38 species of gram-negative bacteria, 20 species of glucose non-fermenter bacilli and 6 species of gram-positive bacteria were isolated. Moreover, antibiotic resistances were found among the bacteria isolated



these findings indicate that cockroaches have the potential in transmitting pathogenic bacteria with multidrug resistance in long-term care facilities and nursing homes.

Cockroaches were demonstrated to be potential vectors in transmitting pathogenic microorganisms in long-term care facilities and nursing homes.

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