



Bug off, eh?

by Roxanne MacLeod

What's about one half inch long, bright orange, and munches on your hairdryer cord? If you live in Baltimore, Maryland, it could be one of the thousands of cockroaches inhabiting your kitchen. The February issue of "Discover" magazine reported the emergence of the so-called "superroach", or German cockroach, which is gaining ubiquity throughout Maryland.

It seems the breed is rather unique in that the roaches are able to resist conventional pesticides, by having built up a "resistance" to the chemicals. Certainly no sloth, this roach is able to reproduce at incredible rates (a 400% increase over a 10 week period), and, in a pinch, is able

to subsist on nothing more than wood, insulated cords and (ugh) other roaches.

So far, we northerners have been able to rest easy, since roaches, like other insects, are cold-blooded and therefore either die or lapse into a hibernation-like state at temperatures below 50 degrees F.

However, given that the roach has been around for 350 million years, its impressive abilities for adaptation may make a northward migration possible. That would be if, for example, the food supply becomes scarce due to population growth. Since the average lifetime descendants of one female German roach number 400,000, that may not be too far off!



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ciency and conservation (not through increased energy consumption.)

"We can build houses today that need one-tenth of the energy required in the past" and small, fuel-efficient cars are seen everywhere. A decade ago such conservation was thought unnecessary and undesirable because of the social and political implications. In the 80s and 90s it will be an accepted fact of

life and not, as the nuclear industry and its supporters claim, a dangerous threat to Canadian freedom and stability, Holtz said.

Of course, it takes time, money and education to reverse the present trend of squandering resources like oil, gas and coal, she said, but conservation is a safer strategy than building expensive and potentially hazardous nuclear power stations throughout Canada.

