

## Guidelines for Importing Exotic and Non-Florida U.S. Arthropods

Organisms must be identified by their scientific name, at least to the level of genus, otherwise they are automatically considered Prohibited. Changes may be made to the list as circumstances warrant.

**Permits are required for all regulated organisms brought into Florida from out of state. No permits** are needed for native Florida species (except for species listed as Endangered or Threatened) or naturalized species that are obtained from in-state sources. This includes, but is not restricted to, the following organisms:

➤Crustacea:

Decapoda: Coenobitidae:

*Coenobita clypeata* – Caribbean hermit crab

➤Insecta:

Blattoidea: All native or naturalized Florida species of cockroaches.

Blaberidae:

*Blaberus craniifer* – death's head roach

*Blaberus discoidalis* – discoid roach

*Panchlora nivea* – green banana or Cuban roach

Blatellidae:

*Blatella asahinai* – Asian roach

**I. Regular:** Permit request normally will be automatically approved. Organisms in this category:

➤Annelida: Oligochaeta (earthworms):

All species established in the state.

➤Arachnida:

Araneae: Family Theraphosidae (tarantulas)

Scorpiones: All families except Buthidae [no CITES species]. Most frequently sold are the giant and non-dangerous scorpions such as:

*Hadogenes* spp. – flat rock scorpions

*Hadrurus* spp. – giant hairy scorpions

*Heterometrus* spp. – Asian forest scorpions

*Pandinus* spp. – emperor scorpions

➤Insecta:

Coleoptera:

*Tenebrio molitor* – mealworm

*Zophobas* sp. – super mealworm

Lepidoptera (species imported for release from east of 100' parallel of longitude):

*Agraulis vanillae* – gulf fritillary

*Anartia jatrophae* – white peacock

*Colias philodice* – common or clouded sulphur

*Danaus plexippus* – monarch

*Heliconius charitonius* – zebra longwing (southeast U.S. only)

*Nymphalis antiopa* – mourning cloak

*Papilio polyxenes* – black swallowtail

*Vanessa atalanta* – red admiral

*Vanessa cardui* – painted lady

*Vanessa virginensis* – American lady

Orthoptera:

*Acheta domesticus* (European house cricket)

**II. Restricted A:** Applicant must apply for possession permit and provide written description of security measures used to prevent escape of organisms on permit application. Cages must be locked. Organisms in this category include:

- Arachnida: All non-native species except as listed above.
  - Amblypygi: All non-native species. For example:
    - Damon variegatus* – Tanzanian whipspider
  
  - Scorpiones: All non-native species in the family Buthidae. For example:
    - Androctonus* spp.
    - Leiurus* spp.
    - Tityus* spp.
- Chilopoda: All non-native species. For example:
  - Scolopendridae:
    - Scolopendra* spp.
- Diplopoda: All non-native species. For example:
  - Spirostreptidae:
    - Archispirostreptus* spp.
- Insecta:
  - Blattoidea: Blaberidae:
    - Gromphadorrhina portentosa* – Madagascar hissing roach (males only)

**III. Restricted B:** Applies specifically to institutions such as butterfly houses, museums, and zoos. Must provide detailed written description of security measures used to prevent escape of organisms. Organisms must be isolated from public. Organisms in this category include:

- Insecta:
  - Blattoidea: Blaberidae:
    - Gromphadorrhina portentosa* – Madagascar hissing cockroach
  
  - Mantodea: Mantidae:
    - Hymenopus coronatus* – orchid mantis
    - Tenodera aridifolia* – Chinese mantis.
  
  - Phasmatoidea: All giant walkingsticks.

**IV. Prohibited:** Any organism previously demonstrated as or potentially (related to native species) capable of causing significant agricultural or ecological harm, or nuisance insects (except see above). Organisms in this category:

- Mollusca: All plant feeding snails.
- Insecta: All plant feeding insects.
  - All non-native pet trade feeder insects, including but not limited to:
    - Blaptica dubia* – orange spotted roach
    - Eublaberus distanti* – six spotted roach
    - Eublaberus prosticus* – orange headed roach
    - Nauphoeta cinerea* – lobster roach
- Other Arthropoda: All species not specifically covered (see Regular and Restricted Categories). Application for an exception must include an environmental impact statement.