Owl moth *Erebus ephesperis* visiting *Hoya* inflorescence

**Subjects:** Owl moth, *Erebus ephesperis* (Lepidoptera: Erebidae).  
Dinner plate hoya, *Hoya latifolia* (Magnoliophyta: Apocynaceae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Bukit Timah, Greenbank Park; 1 June 2006; 2110-2120 hrs.

**Habitat:** Garden in suburban housing estate at the edge of secondary forest.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A large moth with wingspan of about 10 cm was observed fluttering and eventually landing on the inflorescence of a dinner plate hoya (Fig. 1). It proceeded to stick its proboscis into the flowers (Fig. 2) and stayed immobile for a few minutes. It flew away after presumably feeding on the nectar.

**Remarks:** *Erebus ephesperis* has been recorded to feed on the ripened fruit of *Melastoma malabathricum* (Leong, 2011). The sap from bruised or cracked tree bark from a freshly fallen tree has also attracted this moth. The present observation has apparently not been recorded before, and it is not known if the moth serves as a pollinator for *Hoya latifolia*.


---

Figure 1. Dorsal surface of *Erebus ephesperis* on *Hoya latifolia* inflorescence.  
Figure 2. Side view of the head of *Erebus ephesperis* with extended proboscis probing into *Hoya* flowers.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: Tan Heok Hui  
Contact address: heokhui@nus.edu.sg