

Whip spiders of the genus *Sarax* in Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park

Subjects: Whip spider, *Sarax* sp. (Arachnida: Amblypygi: Charinidae).

Subjects identified by: Zestin W. W. Soh; James W. B. Koh

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park, east of Marymount Road; 7 August 2016; 0840 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland.

Observers: Contributor & Choo Le Min.

Observation: Five examples of varying ages were found under a granite slab at the base of a tree. All were under 1 cm in length (Fig. 1), and at least of them was an early instar (Fig. 2).

Remarks: Relatively little research has been published on Singapore's whip spiders. In Singapore, The contributor has previously observed these arachnids in the secondary forests of Venus Loop and Dairy Farm Nature Park. However, this is his first time encountering whip spiders in an urban park.

Two species of whip spiders of the genus *Sarax*: *Sarax buxtoni* (Gravely, 1915) and *Sarax singaporae* (Gravely, 1911) are known from Singapore (Harvey, 2003). Recorded localities for these species in Singapore are provided by Seiter & Wolff (2014). *Sarax buxtoni* is known from the 'South West District', 'North West District near the Turf Club', and the Jurong Bird Park; while *Sarax singaporae* has been obtained from the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

The specific identity of the whip spiders at Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park has not been determined.

References:

Gravely, F.H., 1911. Notes on Pedipalpi in the collection of the Indian Museum. I. New Pedipalpi from Ceylon. *Records of the Indian Museum*. 6: 33–36.

Gravely, F.H., 1915. A revision of the Oriental subfamilies of Tarantulidae (order Pedipalpi). *Records of the Indian Museum*. 11: 433–455.

Harvey, M.S., 2003. *Catalogue of the smaller arachnid orders of the world: Amblypygi, Uropygi, Schizomida, Palpigradi, Ricinulei and Solifugae*. CSIRO Publishing Huntingdon, Collingwood, Victoria, Australia.

Seiter, M. & J. Wolff, 2014. Description of *Sarax buxtoni* (Gravely 1915) (Arachnida: Amblypygi: Charinidae) and a new case of parthenogenesis in Amblypygi from Singapore. *Journal of Arachnology*. 42 (3): 233–239.

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Fig. 1. Fronto-dorsal view of a whip spider with body length of around 9 mm.



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of an earlier instar whip spider with body length of about 5 mm.

Photographs by Zestin W. W. Soh