

Last instar caterpillar of orange tiger moth, *Asota egens*

Subject: Orange tiger moth, *Asota egens* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Arctiidae).

Subject identified by: Leong Tzi Ming.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon swamp-forest; 20 March 2005.

Habitat: Clearing in mature secondary forest, caterpillar found on leaves of *Ficus cf. benjamina*, at around 1.5 m off the ground.

Observers: Contributors.

Observation: A last instar caterpillar of about 4 cm (Fig. 1) was collected on 20 March 2005 and reared in captivity on the leaves of the *Ficus cf. benjamina* it was found on. The caterpillar pupated under the soil on 23 March 2005, and emerged as a tiger moth (Fig. 2) on 10 April 2005.

Remarks: *Asota egens* is distributed from Japan southwards to northern India and Southeast Asia, and eastwards to New Guinea (Holloway, 1976: 5). The larva is known to feed on *Ficus* species (Robinson et al., 2014). The example featured here had spent about 19 days in the pupa stage.

References:

Holloway, J. D., 1976. *Moths of Borneo with Special Reference to Mount Kinabalu*. The Malayan Nature Society and The Sabah Foundation, Malaysia. 264 pp.

Robinson, G. S., P. R. Ackery, I. J. Kitching, G. W. Beccaloni & L. M. Hernández, 2014. *HOSTS — A Database of the World's Lepidopteran Hostplants*. Natural History Museum, London. <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/researchcuration/research/projects/hostplants/>. (Accessed: 28 Jan 2014).



Fig. 1. Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim



Fig. 2. Photograph by Leong Tzi Ming

Fig. 1. Lateral view of last instar caterpillar on 20 March 2005 feeding on foliage of *Ficus cf. benjamina*.

Fig. 2. Dorsal view of adult moth on 11 April 2005, a day after emergence.

Contributors: **Leong Tzi Ming** & **Kelvin K. P. Lim**

Contact address: banjarana@gmail.com (Leong)