

Harlequin cockroach *Neostylopyga rhombifolia* at Kovan

Subject: Harlequin cockroach, *Neostylopyga rhombifolia* (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kovan area, Jalan Rengkam; 26 February 2014; 2243 hrs.

Habitat: Bathroom of concrete terrace house.

Observer: Jeremy W. L. Yeo.

Observation: An example of about 2 cm body length was seen crawling on a pane of glass of a shower stall inside a bathroom.

Remarks: The harlequin cockroach is a strikingly marked and flightless domiciliary pest that is found in tropical areas of the world, and is believed to be of Asian origin (Beccaloni, 2007). It has been recorded in Singapore since 1915 (Hanitsch, 1915: 105 as *Stylopyga rhombifolia*), but is hardly noticed and is not among the six species of cockroach in Singapore households mentioned by Teo (1990: 177-179). The present record shows that this species is still lurking in local buildings, although it is far less common than the American cockroach (*Periplaneta americana*).

References:

Beccaloni, G. W., 2007. Blattodea Species File Online. Version 5.0/5.0. World Wide Web electronic publication <http://Blattodea.SpeciesFile.org>.

Accessed 1 March 2014.

Hanitsch, R., 1915. Malayan Blattidae. *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*. 69: 17-178.

Teo L. H., 1990. Biology of household insects. In: Chou L. M. & P. K. L. Ng (Eds.). *Essays in Zoology*. Papers Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore. pp.177-187,



Photograph by Jeremy W. L. Yeo

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