

## A hive of black dwarf honeybees at Kent Ridge campus

**Subjects:** Black dwarf honeybee, *Apis andreniformis* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Apidae).

**Subjects identified by:** John Ascher.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, National University of Singapore's Kent Ridge campus, Science Drive 2; 8 April 2014; 0825 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban garden, on bottlebrush tree (Myrtaceae: *Callistemon* sp.) in a lawn between concrete buildings.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A hive consisting of a single comb about 30 cm across was observed hanging from a branch about 3 m above the ground (Fig. 1). It was covered with a layer of bees with distinct black bands on their abdomens and transparent wings (Fig. 2).

**Remarks:** The black dwarf honeybee has often been misidentified as *Apis florea* but is distinguished from that species by its less reddish coloration and more aggressive defence behavior (Anonymous, 2014). *Apis andreniformis* is widely distributed from the Himalayan foothills eastward to Indochina, Sundaland and the Philippines (Hepburn & Radloff, 2011).

### References:

Anonymous. <http://vespa-bicolor.net/main/social-bees/apis-andreniformis.htm>. Accessed on 8 April 2014.

Hepburn, H. R. & S. E. Radloff, 2011. Biogeography of the dwarf honeybees, *Apis andreniformis* and *A. florea*. *Apidologie*. (2011) 42: 293-300.



Fig. 1. A hive of *Apis andreniformis* among the tree branches. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui



Fig. 2. A closer view of *Apis andreniformis* bees on the hive. Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

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