

Metamorphosis of the swallowtail moth *Lyssa zampa*

Subjects: Swallowtail moth, *Lyssa zampa* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Uraniidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Bukit Kalang, Tree Top Walk; 3, 6 & 12 June 2005.

Habitat: Mature secondary and primary lowland rainforest, on the crown of a Bulan-bulan tree *Endospermum diadenum* (family Euphorbiaceae).

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Final instar caterpillars of between 3.5 and 4.0 cm total length were found feeding on the leaves of *Endospermum diadenum* on 6 June 2005. One example was collected for rearing. In the late afternoon of 12 June 2005, at least seven caterpillars were seen dangling in midair by a silk thread beneath their host tree (Fig. 1). They descended slowly onto the ground (Fig. 2) where they subsequently pupated among the leaf litter. The caterpillar that was collected also pupated around the same day. The pupa, about 3 cm in length, was found at the bottom of the rearing box not encased in a cocoon (Fig. 3). The adult emerged on 26 June 2005 and was set free. An adult moth was observed in the area earlier on 3 June 2005 (Fig. 4).

Remarks: The diagnostic caterpillar of *Lyssa zampa* has previously been described and illustrated (see Holloway, 1989: 94, pl. 10, fig. 1-3). The pupal stage has been recorded to last about 15 days (Fox, 1986: 80).

References:

- Fox, A., 1986. *Malaysian Nature Handbooks. Common Malaysian Moths*. Longman Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. ix + 105, 32 pls.
- Holloway, J. D., 1989. The Moths of Borneo, Part 8: Family Castniidae, Callidulidae, Drepanidae and Uraniidae. *Malayan Nature Journal*. 52 (1 & 2): 1-155.



Fig. 1. Prepupal caterpillar dangling by a silk thread.



Fig. 2. Prepupal caterpillar of *Lyssa zampa* having lowered itself onto the ground and getting ready to pupate.

Photographs by Leong Tzi Ming



Fig. 3. Dorsolateral view of pupa of *Lyssa zampa*, about 3 cm in length, on 13 June 2005. Note the distinct spiracles along the flank. Photograph by Leong Tzi Ming.



Fig. 4. Adult moth with wingspan of about 15 cm (not reared from featured caterpillar) at Bukit Kalang on 3 June 2005 at 2318 hrs. Photograph by Leong Tzi Ming.

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