

Swallowtail moths probing tembusu flowers at Saint John's Island

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

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Straits, Saint John's Island; 31 May 2014; 1940–2000 hrs.

Habitat: Parkland adjacent to coastal forest. On a tembusu tree (*Fagraea fragrans*) in bloom.

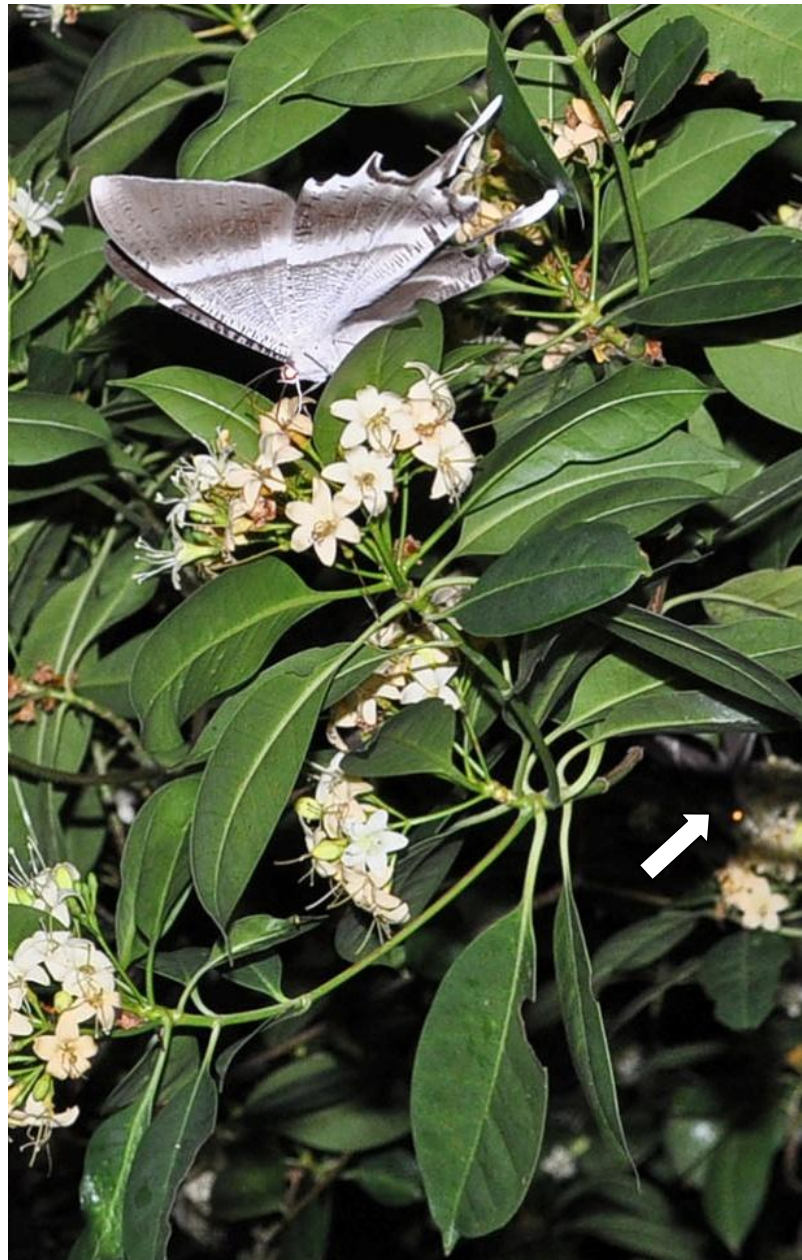
Observer: Contributor.

Observations: An example was observed at 1950 hrs, about 2 m off the ground, probing a tembusu flower with its proboscis. Another individual can be seen doing the same at the lower right quarter of the photograph (arrowed). At least 15 individuals were seen on the island that evening in parkland habitat, but none were seen around buildings or attracted to lights.

Swallowtail moths were also seen fluttering about earlier during the day (1000–1130 hrs) in parkland and coastal forest on the island.

Remarks: Although *Lyssa zampa* is seasonally common in the urban areas of Singapore, aspects of its ecology and behaviour are apparently not well known. This moth is known to puddle beside forest streams to obtain salts and minerals (Leong, 2014). Records of *Lyssa zampa* visiting flowers appear to be rare. As the adults of this species have a functional proboscis, it is likely they may derive nutrition from the nectar, and perhaps even serve as a pollinator.

Reference: Leong T. M., 2014. Swallowtail moths puddling beside forest streams. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 165-166.



Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

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