

The cockroach *Symploce quadripunctata* at Bukit Timah forest

Subject: *Symploce quadripunctata* (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattellidae).

Subject identified by: Kelvin K. P. Lim.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; 13 May 2005; 2347 hrs.

Habitat: Primary lowland rainforest.

Observer: Norman T-L. Lim.

Observation: One example, about 1.5 cm in body length, was photographed on a leaf at around one metre off the ground (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: This small cockroach is easily identified by its orange colour, and the four black spots on its pronotum (Roth, 1985: 389). The species was described from Semangko Pass, Selangor, Peninsular Malaysia (Hanitsch, 1915 as *Phyllodromia quadric-punctata*) and seems to inhabit forests. It has also been recorded from Sumatra and southern Vietnam (Roth, 1985: 389). As with the majority of Singapore's forest-dwelling cockroaches, its habits and biology are poorly known.

References:

- Hanitsch, R., 1915. Malayan Blattidae. *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*. 69: 17-178.
Roth, L. M., 1985. The genus *Symploce* Hebard. V. Species from mainland Asia (China, India, Iran, Laos, Thailand, South Vietnam, West Malaysia). (Dictyoptera: Blattaria, Blattellidae). *Entomologica Scandinavica*. 16: 375-397.



Photograph by Norman T-L. Lim

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