

## The forest cockroach *Dorylaea heinzei* in Singapore

**Subjects:** *Dorylaea heinzei* (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Nature Reserves - Sime forest, Nee Soon swamp-forest and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; from September 2005 to December 2009; evenings.

**Habitat:** Primary forest (at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve), as well as mature secondary forest and freshwater swamp-forest (Sime forest and Nee Soon swamp-forest).

**Observers:** Contributor and others.

**Observations:** Four adult individuals, each about 3 cm in total length, from four different locations in the Central Nature Reserves, are herein featured.

1) Sime forest, along Sime Track. An example was seen on a leaf at about 1 m off the ground, on 19 December 2009 at 2315 hrs. (Fig. 1).

2) Nee Soon swamp-forest, Woodcutter's Trail. One was observed at about 1.5 m up on the trunk of a small tree in the evening of 9 August 2008 (Fig. 2).

3) Nee Soon swamp-forest, Pipeline Trail. An individual was observed ascending a tree on the evening of 10 September 2005 (Fig. 3). It was at least 4 m from the ground.

4) Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, South View Path. One example was found on a leaf at around 1 m off the ground, on 7 February 2009 at 2025 hrs (Fig. 4).

**Remarks:** This arboreal forest cockroach is readily recognised by its distinct colour pattern. It is dorsally blackish brown with a distinct broad pale-brown margin at the outer part of the pronotum and anterior part of the tegmina.

The species was apparently first recorded from Singapore by Murphy (1973: 57) who had found it dwelling in the high canopy of the Bukit Timah forest. The records herein featured show that the species is also found in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, and that it also descends onto the shrubbery of the forest understorey.

**Reference:** Murphy, D. H., 1973. Animals in the forest ecosystem. In: Chuang S. H. (ed.), *Animal Life and Nature in Singapore*. Singapore University Press. p. 53-73.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of example along Sime Track on 19 December 2009 at 2315 hrs. Note that the rear edge of the left tegmina is damaged. Photograph by Kelvin K. P. Lim



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of example on a tree trunk in the evening of 9 August 2008 at Woodcutter's Trail.



Fig. 3. Individual ascending a tree at Nee Soon Pipeline Trail on the evening of 10 September 2005.



Fig. 4. Example at South View Path in the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve on 7 February 2009 at 2025 hrs.

Photographs by Kelvin K. P. Lim

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