Cockroach feeding on termites

**Subjects**: Cockroach, unidentified genus and species (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattidae).
Termite, unidentified genus and species (Insecta: Isoptera: Termitidae).

**Subjects identified by**: Contributor.

**Location, date and time**: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Lower Peirce forest; 28 April 2014; 2022 hrs.

**Habitat**: Mature secondary forest.

**Observer**: Contributor.

**Observation**: A cockroach of about 4 cm body length was observed at about 2 m up on a tree trunk beside a congregation of tree-dwelling termites, picking the insects off one by one, and eating them (see accompanying picture). The termites seemed to be defenceless against the predatory cockroach.

**Remarks**: The common American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*, has been documented preying on termites (Bell et al., 2007: 71). Although the cockroach featured here resemble the American cockroach, this yet to be identified species differs in having a broad yellow band over the posterior edge of its blackish pronotum. It is a native species that only inhabits mature forest where it is arboreal.