

## Last instar moult of dead leaf cockroach *Pseudophoraspis nebulosa*

**Subject:** *Pseudophoraspis nebulosa* (Insecta: Blattaria: Blaberidae).

**Subject identified by:** Contributor.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, stream at Bukit Gombak; event observed under captive conditions on 22 February 2008; 1420 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater stream flowing through secondary forest. Event occurred *ex-situ*.

**Observers:** Contributor, Tan Heok Hui and others.

**Observation:** A nymph of about 3 cm collected from Bukit Gombak was observed completing its last instar moult at around 1420 hrs in a terrarium. The pale adult, devoid of pigmentation, had emerged from a longitudinal slit along the mid-dorsal surface of the moulted exoskeleton (see accompanying picture). The cockroach remained motionless in front of its moult for the next two hours where it gradually became reddish-brown.

**Remarks:** The juvenile stages of *Pseudophoraspis nebulosa* are spent among wet leaf litter along the banks of forest streams. The winged adults are arboreal and tend to be found among shrubs (Lim, 2012).

**Reference:** Lim, K. K. P., 2012. Caring cockroach. In: Wang L. K., D. C. J. Yeo, K. K. P. Lim & S. K. Y. Lum. *Private Lives. An Exposé of Singapore's Rainforests*. p. 67.



Photograph by Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: Kelvin K. P. Lim  
Contact address: [nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg](mailto:nhmlimkp@nus.edu.sg)