

## New record of stick insect *Trachythorax maculicollis* in Singapore

**Subjects:** Stick insect, *Trachythorax maculicollis* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Diapheromeridae).

**Subjects identified by:** Francis Seow-Choen.

**Location, date and time:** Pulau Ubin, south-western area; 17 June 2016; 1403 hrs.

**Habitat:** Mangrove forest, on mudlobster mound.

**Observer:** Contributor.

**Observation:** A stick insect was seen flying off from a tree branch. It flew ahead of the contributor and landed on a nearby mud lobster mound. A closer inspection revealed a smaller individual under the wings of the larger individual and that the two were mating (Figs. 1, 2 & 3). The larger example was about 10 cm in total length.

**Remarks:** Members of the stick insect genus *Trachythorax* are distributed across Southeast Asia, India and southern China (Phasmid Species File). Although they are known from Peninsular Malaysia (Seow-Choen, 2005), the present observation constitutes a new record of the genus, and of the species *Trachythorax maculicollis* (Westwood) in Singapore. This species is known to feed on oleander (*Nerium* sp.) (Francis Seow-Choen, personal communication on 12 August 2016).

### References:

Phasmid Species File, not dated. *Genus Trachythorax*, Redtenbacher, 1908.

<http://phasmida.speciesfile.org/Common/basic/Taxa.aspx?TaxonNameID=1203490>.

Accessed on 13 September 2016.

Seow-Choen, F., 2005. *Phasmids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore*. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu. v + 120 pp.



Fig 1. Side view of the mating pair of *Trachythorax maculicollis* on a mud lobster mound. Photograph by Foo Maosheng

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Fig 2. Dorsal view of the mating pair of *Trachythorax maculicollis*. Note the front and middle limbs of the male protruding between the hind wings of the female (indicated by arrow).



Fig 3. A closer view of the male *Trachythorax maculicollis* partially concealed under the hindwings of the female, with his hind legs stretched out at the end of the female's abdomen.

Photographs by Foo Maosheng