

Lantern bugs of the genus *Polydictya* at the Botanic Gardens

Subjects: Lantern bug, *Polydictya* sp. (Insecta: Homoptera: Fulgoridae).

Subjects identified by: James Holden.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Botanic Gardens rainforest; 9 April 2017; 2158 hrs.

Habitat: Patch of degraded primary forest surrounded by urban parkland.

Observers: Contributor & Jacqueline Lau.

Observation: Three individuals, with estimated body lengths of 2 cm, were observed. Two were about 60 cm from the ground on an unidentified woody liana (Fig. 1) by the boardwalk. The third was flushed from the vegetation, perhaps disturbed by the observers' torchlights, and landed on the boardwalk (Fig. 2).

Remarks: Members of the Fulgoridae are commonly known as lantern bugs because many species possess a long snout-like anterior process which was once mistakenly believed to glow in the dark. *Laternaria oculata* and *Zanna nobilis* exhibit this striking cephalic feature and occur in Singapore (Leong et al., 2009). The genus *Polydictya*, represented by about 24 species in Southeast Asia from Sri Lanka to Sulawesi, lacks the head process. Adults of the family are weak flyers and usually encountered on the trunks of forest trees that may serve as their food plant, but little else is known about their host-specificity (if any) and life history (Constant, 2015). The specific identity of the featured insects could not be determined.

References:

- Constant, J., 2015. The Lanternfly genus *Polydictya* (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Fulgoridae) from Sulawesi and neighbouring islands, with the description of three new species. *European Journal of taxonomy*. 100: 1-19.
- Leong T. M., D. H. Murphy & L. Leong, 2009. Records of the Lantern Bug, *Laternaria oculata* (Westwood, 1839), (Homoptera: Fulgoridae: Fulgorinae) in Singapore, with notes on *Zanna nobilis* (Westwood, 1839). *Nature in Singapore*. 2: 495-501.



Fig. 1. Example on woody liana.



Fig 2. Side view of example that landed on the boardwalk.

Photographs by Marcus F. C. Ng

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