A Singapore record of a cockroach of the genus *Thyrsocera*

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**Subject:** *Thyrsocera* sp. (Insecta: Blattodea: Blattidae: Blattiniae).

**Subject identified by:** Cristian Caballes Lucañas.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park; 30 July 2018; 1254 hrs.

**Habitat:** Pavilion in urban parkland about 5 m away from a patch of secondary forest.

**Observer:** Emmanuel Goh.

**Observation:** An example of about 2.5 cm body length was seen scampering underneath a tripod placed on the floor of the pavilion. The cockroach then proceeded to ‘explore’ the edge of the concrete floor for a few minutes before entering the lawn surrounding the pavilion, and disappearing into the grass.

While on the floor of the pavilion, the cockroach did not appear to be alarmed when a smartphone was placed by the observer some 5 cm above it to record the attached picture, which shows its dorsum.

**Remarks:** Three species of cockroach are presently recognised in the genus *Thyrsocera* (see Beccaloni, 2014). Two of these, *Thyrsocera pulchra* and *Thyrsocera spectabilis*, occur in Southeast Asia. The featured example appears to be a *Thyrsocera* (Cristian Caballes Lucañas, personal communication), but its specific identity is unclear. The markings on its pronotum strongly resembles that of a specimen of *Thyrsocera spectabilis* from Sumatra illustrated in Bruijning (1948: 108, fig. 46c). We are, however, unable to confirm the species of the featured insect as we have not seen examples of *Thyrsocera pulchra* to make comparisons.

There is a similar specimen of this cockroach in the entomology collection of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore that was collected from the Nee Soon swamp-forest in April 2005. Murphy (1973: 57) mentions a ‘*Thyrsocera* sp.’ found in dead log at the Bukit Timah forest, but we do not know if his insect is conspecific with the featured example. Apart from these, there appears to be no other record of this genus of (presumably) forest dwelling cockroaches in Singapore.

**References:**
