

Spoon-tailed duskhawker dragonfly at Yishun Central

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Subject: Spoon-tailed duskhawker, *Gynacantha basiguttata* (Insecta: Odonata: Anisoptera: Aeshnidae).

Subject identified by: Robin W. J. Ngiam.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yishun Central, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, basement 1 of Tower A; 30 December 2019; 1327 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. Inside a concrete building, near a garden with a simulated forest on the same floor.

Observer: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Observation: An example of about 7.5 cm total length (Fig. 1-3) was found at the base of an automated teller machine (Fig. 4) at the basement of the building (Fig. 5). The insect did not react when the observer picked it up with his fingers, but started to vibrate its wings after it was taken into the observer's office where it died about an hour later.

Remarks: In Singapore, the spoon-tailed duskhawker is considered rare with a restricted distribution and locally vulnerable (Soh et al., 2019: 15). This large dragonfly inhabits swampy areas in forest and breeds in pools with leaf litter substrates. However, it has been recorded outside its forest habitat at the Bukit Timah Campus and at Kent Ridge (Tang et al., 2010: 99). While a concrete building is not the habitat of this dragonfly, the featured individual, believed to be dying, is likely to have flown over from a forested area nearby.



Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the right side of the insect.

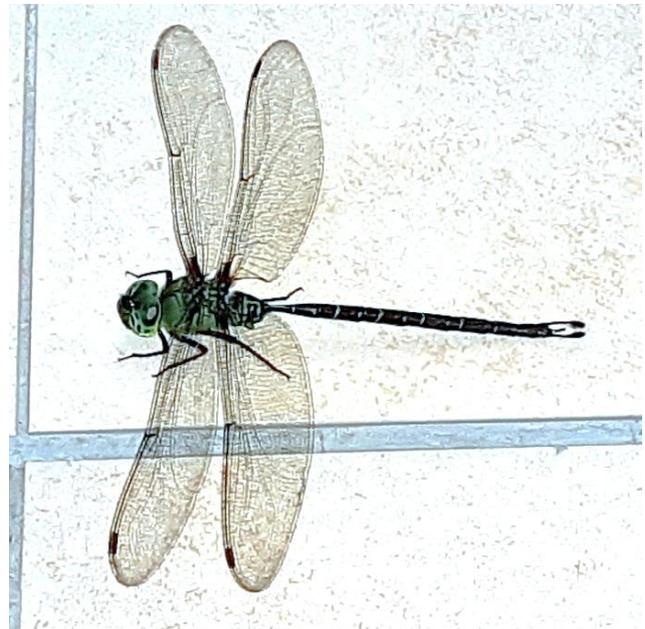


Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the left side of the specimen.

Photographs by Simon Kee Mun Chan



Fig. 3. Lateral view of the right side of the dragonfly.



Fig. 4. The automated teller machine at the base of which the dragonfly was found.



Fig. 5. General view of the hospital basement. The automated teller machine is at the far end of the corridor.

Photographs by Simon Kee Mun Chan

References:

- Soh M, Ng M & Ngiam RWJ (2019) New Singapore record of a dragonfly, *Indothemis carnatica*, with an updated Singapore odonata checklist. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 10-17.
- Tang HB, Wang LK & Hämäläinen M (2010) A Photographic Guide to the Dragonflies of Singapore. The Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 220 pp.