

Singapore records of the rare hoverfly, *Furcantenna malayana*

Zestin W. W. Soh, Yue Teng Lee & Nicholas W. Lim

zestin_soh@nparks.gov.sg

Subjects: Hoverfly, *Furcantenna malayana* (Insecta: Diptera: Syrphidae: Microdontinae).

Subjects identified by: Menno Reemer (at the Facebook group ‘The Society for the study of British Flies – The Dipterists Forum’).

Location, date and time: Two locations on Singapore Island –

1) Upper Seletar Reservoir Park, between Car Park B and Car Park C; 11 October 2020, afternoon.

2) Singapore Botanic Gardens, near the Foliage Garden; 28 October 2018, morning.

Habitat: 1) Parkland adjacent to patches of secondary forest.

2) Urban parkland with ornamental vegetation.

Observers: 1) Yue Teng Lee.

2) Nicholas W. Lim.

Observation: Two separate individuals, each about 10 mm in length, were observed. The example at Upper Seletar was perched at the tip of a branch (Fig. 1). The specimen at the Botanic Gardens, which had damaged antennae, was found on a tree trunk (Fig. 2).

Remarks: *Furcantenna* is a genus of hoverfly that comprise three species, and *Furcantenna malayana* is presently the only one known from Southeast Asia. The description of *Furcantenna malayana* was published very recently in November 2020 based on a single female specimen collected in 1962 from Ipoh, Perak, Peninsular Malaysia (Reemer, 2020). It was known only from the type locality. Here, we illustrate this species in life, and also extend its known range south to Singapore based on the two featured sightings (Fig. 1 & 2).

We also observe that *Furcantenna malayana* closely resembles and potentially mimics the native stingless bee *Homotrigona (Tetrigona) apicalis* (Fig. 3) with which it co-occurs at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and forests of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Soh & Ascher, 2020). In addition to similarities in size, colour and bi-coloured wings, the hoverfly’s hind tibia is broadened like the stingless bee’s corbicula (Fig. 2 & 3).

The life history of the genus *Furcantenna* is unknown and requires investigation. As with several other members of the subfamily Microdontinae, their larvae are possibly myrmecophilic and associated with ant nests (Reemer, 2013).

References:

- Reemer M (2013) Review and phylogenetic evaluation of associations between Microdontinae (Diptera: Syrphidae) and ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). *Psyche*, 2013: 1-9.
- Reemer M (2020) A third species of the rarely collected Oriental hoverfly genus *Furcantenna* Cheng, 2008 (Diptera, Syrphidae, Microdontinae). *ZooKeys*, 989: 73–78.
- Soh ZWW & Ascher JS (2020) A Guide to the Bees of Singapore. National Parks Board, Singapore. 148 pp.



Fig. 1. Lateral views of *Furcantennoa malayana* at Upper Seletar Reservoir Park. Photographs by Yue Teng Lee



Fig. 2. Lateral (left) and dorsal (right) habitus of *Furcantennoa malayana* at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photographs by Nicholas W. Lim



Fig. 3. Lateral view of a stingless bee *Homotrigona apicalis* worker at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photograph by Zestin Soh