

A *Dorylaea* cockroach nymph along Old Upper Thomson Road

James Chua

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Subject: Cockroach, *Dorylaea* sp. (Insecta: Blattaria: Blattidae).

Subjects identified by: Foo Maosheng (cockroach) and James Chua (snails).

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road; 15 August 2020; 2130 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest edge, on the trunk of a tree at the side of the road.

Observers: James Chua, Lee Jing Yi, Ng Kia Ling and Woon Siew Yan.

Observation: A cockroach nymph of about 4 cm body length (Fig. 1) and missing its right third limb, was spotted staying still on the trunk of a tree at about 2-3 m off the ground. Also on the trunk near it were two Temasek tree snails (*Amphidromus atricallosus temasek*, Mollusca: Gastropoda: Camaenidae) (Fig. 2) and a lichen huntsman spider (?*Pandercetes* sp., Arachnida: Araneae: Sparassidae) (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1 (left). Dorsal view of the *Dorylaea* cockroach nymph, with head pointing downwards. Photograph by Woon Siew Yan

Fig. 2 (below middle). Dorsal view of one of the Temasek tree snails. Photograph by James Chua

Fig. 3 (below right). Lichen huntsman spider with head facing downwards. Photograph by James Chua



Remarks: It is likely that the featured cockroach is the nymph of *Dorylaea heinzei*, an arboreal species that is seldom seen, and seems to be locally restricted to the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Reserves. Between 2005 and 2009, adult individuals have been sighted at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Sime forest and the Nee Soon swamp-forest (Lim, 2014). The cockroach nymph seems to be a potential prey for the lichen spider.

Reference: Lim KKP (2014) The forest cockroach *Dorylaea heinzei* in Singapore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 214-215.