

Adult wood-feeding cockroach *Panesthia angustipennis* at Nanyang Drive

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Subject: Wood-feeding cockroach, *Panesthia angustipennis* (Insecta: Blattodea: Blaberoidea: Blaberidae).

Subject identified by: Kamalakannan Raja.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Jurong, campus of Nanyang Technological University at Nanyang Drive; 20 November 2020; 1450 hrs.

Habitat: Concrete building next to a lush landscaped patch of greenery.

Observer: Kamalakannan Raja

Observation: An adult individual of 55 mm total length, and wing length of about 35 mm, was found inside a building, crawling on the floor, just before a heavy thunderstorm.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of specimen (ex-situ).
Photograph by Kamalakannan Raja



Fig. 2. Ventral view of specimen (ex-situ).
Photograph by Dhanushri Munasinghe

Remarks: After its first record (Hanitsch, 1915) in Singapore, this species of wood-feeding cockroach has since been encountered in the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves (Murphy, 1973; Lim & Low, 2014). This seems to be the first time that it has been reported from outside that area. The campus of the Nanyang Technological University is flanked by secondary forest protected within a military exercise zone in the Western Catchment Area, and the cockroach is expected to have strayed from there. Cockroaches of the genus *Panesthia* inhabit decaying wood in self-excavated tunnels (Asahina, 1991).

References:

- Asahina S (1991) Blattaria of Japan. Nakayama-Shoten, Tokyo. 253 pp.
 Hanitsch R (1915) Malayan Blattidae. Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 69: 17-178.
 Lim K & Low M (2014) The burrowing cockroach *Panesthia angustipennis* at Chestnut forest. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 203.
 Murphy DH (1973) Animals in the forest ecosystem. In: Chuang SH (ed.) Animal Life and Nature in Singapore. Singapore University Press. pp. 53-73.