

Biodiversity Record: Danaid eggfly, *Hypolimnas misippus*, at Kent Ridge Park

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Subject: Danaid eggfly, *Hypolimnas misippus misippus* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae).

Subject identified by: Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kent Ridge Park, Vigilante Drive; 18 October 2020; 1334 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland with patches of secondary forest and rubber trees.

Observers: Loh Jing Ling, Chan Tze Hin and Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Observation: On that very cloudy afternoon, a male example (Figs. 1, 2) with a forewing length of about 4 cm, was spotted flying rapidly amongst free-flowering bushes along a paved path beside a public toilet building (Fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of male Danaid eggfly. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).

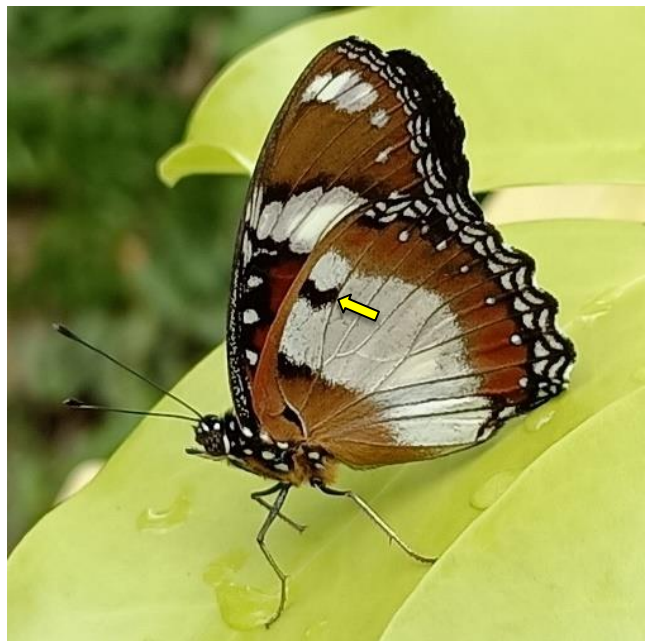


Fig. 2. Danaid eggfly with wings folded, showing their undersides. Arrow points to the black costal spot that characterises this species. (Photograph by: Loh Jing Ling).

Remarks: The featured example was initially thought to be a common great eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina bolina*), but the presence of a black costal spot on the underside of the hindwing (Fig. 2) shows that it is a Danaid eggfly (see Khew, 2015: 147). Of the three species of butterfly in the genus *Hypolimnas* in Singapore, the Danaid eggfly is by far the rarest. It has been seen only a handful of times in Singapore, and is regarded as ‘very rare’ (Khew, 2015: 147). The first positively identified male specimen in recent times was observed in 1994 in the Mandai Road area. The species then went unrecorded in the country until 2009, when one was spotted at the Southern Ridges (Khew, 2009). At least one other recent sighting correctly identified as a Danaid eggfly was posted on the website of National Parks Board’s Biodiversity and Environment Database System (biome). It was photographed on 7 June 2018 from an unspecified location (Goh, 2018).



Fig. 3. Kent Ridge Park, where the Danaid eggfly was found among vegetation beside the toilet building. (Photograph by: Lena Chow).

Literature cited:

- Goh A (2018) Danaid eggfly. *Hypolimnas missippus missippus*. Biome. Biodiversity and Environment Database System. National Parks Board, Singapore. <https://biome.nparks.gov.sg/Sightings/SightingDetails/AllSightings/30534/> (Accessed February 2021).
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