

## Biodiversity Record: An aberrant oakblue butterfly at Yishun Central

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**Subject:** Aberrant oakblue, *Arhopala abseus abseus* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Lycaeninae).

**Subject identified by:** Simon Chan Kee Mun.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Yishun Central, medicinal garden in the compound of Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; 30 December 2020; 1527 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban. Ornamental garden cultivated with various medicinal plants at the boundary of hospital that simulates a secondary forest (Fig. 1).

**Observer:** Simon Chan Kee Mun.

**Observation:** On that cloudy and windy afternoon, an example with slightly tattered wings (Fig. 2) was observed flying around a potted lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*) on the side of a footpath. It then settled down on a leaf of the pinwheel flower plant (*Tabernaemontana divaricata*) for less than a minute, and was gone in a flash.

**Remarks:** The aberrant oakblue is a small (17 mm in forewing length) and locally ‘moderately rare’ species that inhabits shaded forested areas in the nature reserves (Khew, 2015: 238). Individuals have turned up at the Southern Ridges and Botanic Gardens (Tan, 2011), and in urban gardens such as the example featured here. This is the 101st butterfly species to be recorded from the landscaped gardens of the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (personal observation).



Fig. 1. Footpath in the medicinal garden with a patch of pinwheel flower plants (on the right, indicated by arrow) where the butterfly had rested. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).



Fig. 2. Lateral view of the aberrant oakblue resting with its head pointing downwards on a leaf of the pinwheel flower plant. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).

### Literature cited:

- Tan H (2011) Life history of the aberrant oakblue. Butterflies of Singapore. A Tribute to Nature's Flying Jewels. <https://butterflycircle.blogspot.com/2011/10/life-history-of-aberrant-oakblue.html?m=1> (Accessed 11 March 2021).  
Khew SK (2015) A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Singapore. 2nd edition. Ink On Paper Communications Pte Ltd, Singapore, xxv + 375 pp.