

Biodiversity Record: Parental care in the shield bug, *Enada rosea*

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Subject: Shield bug, *Enada rosea* (Insecta: Heteroptera: Tessaratomidae).

Subject identified by: Chan Woei Leong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Panjang, residential area next to Zhenghua Park; 28 March 2021; 1335 hrs.

Habitat: Concrete high-rise apartment building near secondary forest.

Observer: Chan Woei Leong.

Observation: An adult *Enada rosea* (Fig. 1a) was found in the kitchen of a high floor residential unit. It was around 1.5 cm in length and appeared to be in good health. Upon close inspection, no less than 15 pinkish brown nymphs were seen clustering on the ventral surface of the insect's abdomen (Fig. 1b). After photography, the bug was urged to fly out of the window away from the building. It took off and swiftly gained altitude before the observer lost sight of it.



Fig. 1. Adult *Enada rosea*. a, dorsal view; b, latero-ventral view showing nymphs clustering on the ventral surface of the abdomen. (Photographs by: Chan Woei Leong).

Remarks: Fig. 1b could be the first published image depicting parental care behaviour in *Enada rosea*. The confamilial *Pygoplatys acutus* is known to carry its young on its abdomen (Gogala et al., 1998). Another point of interest is the green colour of the featured bug. Hardening of the exoskeleton after a moult was the suggested explanation for an adult *Enada rosea* changing from green to red after being held in a container for 24 hours (Lee & Foo, 2017). However, both red and green *Enada rosea* individuals were observed together on crown level leaves of a *Hopea odorata* tree (Ng, 2020). The featured bug did not appear to have recently moulted as it was carrying young. Although assumed to be female, its sex cannot be confirmed as its genitalia cannot be seen in the attached images.

Literature cited:

- Gogala M, Yong HS & Bruehl C (1998) Maternal care in *Pygoplatys* bugs (Heteroptera: Tessaratomidae). European Journal of Entomology, 95: 311–315.
- Lee KY & Foo M (2017) A colour-changing shield bug, *Enada rosea*, at Kent Ridge. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2017: 150.
- Ng MFC (2020) Shield bugs, *Enada rosea*, on *Hopea odorata*. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 187.