**Biodiversity Record: The stag beetle, *Aegus chelifer*, at the Sungei Tengah area**

Isaac Seow-En¹ & James Khoo Hian Ze²

¹Outram Road, Singapore 169608; Email: prawnfret@gmail.com (‘corresponding author)
²Canberra Street, Singapore 752107; Email: james.khoo@pangolinfilms.com.sg


---

**Subjects:** Stag beetle, *Aegus chelifer* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Lucaninae).

**Subjects identified by:** Isaac Seow-En.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Sungei Tengah area, Lorong Semangka, facing the Tengah River (part of the Kranji Reservoir); 1 April 2021; 2115 hrs and 2145 hrs.

**Habitat:** Farmland, in proximity to secondary forest and a large body of freshwater.

**Observers:** Isaac Seow-En, James Khoo Hian Ze and Francis Seow-Choen.

**Observations:** Two *Aegus chelifer* were among many insects attracted to a large white sheet of cloth hung above a 20-watt ultraviolet light on a two-metre high platform. The light was turned on from 2030 hrs to 2230 hrs. At 2115 hrs, a female *Aegus chelifer* was found near the light, followed by a male at 2145 hrs. When handled, both beetles displayed thanatosis (Fig. 1). They were photographed ex situ (Figs. 2, 3), then released.

**Remarks:** *Aegus chelifer* MacLeay, 1819, was first collected in Singapore in 1909 by Henry Nicholas Ridley (The Biodiversity of Singapore, 2021). This diminutive and reclusive stag beetle is apparently seldom encountered even by Coleoptera enthusiasts. The featured observation suggests that the species is not rare in Singapore. One local photographer encountered six adult and two larval individuals at a single locality in one night (Moh, 2015). Although *Aegus chelifer* is native to Southeast Asia, it has recently been found in the Seychelles. It is speculated to have reached there on logs that washed ashore from Southeast Asia during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (Carpaneto et al., 2010).

**Literature cited:**

**Note:** The authors would like to thank Alvin Seah for allowing them to operate a light trap in his private property.
Fig. 2. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of the 17-mm male *Aegus chelifer*. (Photograph by: Isaac Seow-En).

Fig. 3. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of the 19-mm female *Aegus chelifer*. (Photograph by: Isaac Seow-En).