

## Biodiversity Record: A great thin stick insect, *Ramulus nematodes*, at Upper Seletar

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**Subject:** Great thin stick, *Ramulus nematodes* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Phasmatidae).

**Subject identified by:** Francis Seow-Choen.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Area, Upper Seletar; 14 March 2021; 2200 hrs.

**Habitat:** Edge of secondary forest.

**Observers:** Kenneth Chin, Naomi Kim and John Paul Foenander.

**Observation:** One example of about 11 cm in body length was found motionless, suspended by its limbs on the underside of a sprig of leaves (Fig. 1), about 1.5 m off the ground beside a freshwater stream.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Ramulus nematodes* in upside-down position, in situ at Upper Seletar. The head faces the left margin of the picture. Note the blue bands on the body. (Photograph by: Kenneth Chin).

**Remarks:** In this very thin and wingless species, males are usually red with black legs. Females grow larger (body length up to 181 mm; males to 133 mm) and typically have two horn-like projections on the head (Seow-Choen, 2005: 89–90). Although common throughout Peninsular Malaysia, the great thin stick is regarded as ‘endangered’ in Singapore as it seems to be restricted to a small patch of forest in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (Seow-Choen, 2008: 101). The featured individual seems unusual for it appears to have blue bands on the body. At Kedah Peak in Peninsular Malaysia, male *Ramulus nematodes* are blue (Seow-Choen, 2005: 89).

**Literature cited:**

- Seow-Choen F (2005) Phasmids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, v + 120 pp.
- Seow-Choen F (2008) Phasmids (Class Insecta: Phasmida). In: Davison GWH, Ng PKL & Ho HC (eds.) The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition. Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore, pp. 95–104.