

Biodiversity Record: Leaf insect, *Phyllium bioculatum*, along Old Upper Thomson Road

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Subject: Gray's leaf insect, *Phyllium bioculatum* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Phylliidae).

Subject identified by: Kenneth Chin.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road; 9 May 2021; 2130 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest edge. It had rained heavily earlier in the day, and there was a drizzle after the observation.

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

Observation: A subadult male of about 6 cm in length was found motionless on the surface of a leaf (Fig. 1) of a cinnamon tree (*Cinnamomum iners*), about 2 m off the ground.

Remarks: *Phyllium bioculatum* seems to be uncommon in Singapore, where it is regarded as 'vulnerable' to national extinction (Seow-Choen, 2008). In 2014, this species was recorded from Pulau Ubin (Yeo, 2014) and secondary forest off Venus Drive, now part of Windsor Nature Park (Chua et al., 2014). Although the featured individual was found on cinnamon, it was not observed to feed on the foliage of this species.



Fig. 1. In situ dorsal view of the leaf insect *Phyllium bioculatum* at Old Upper Thomson Road. (Photograph by: Kenneth Chin).

Literature cited:

Chua MAH, Lim KKP & Chong KY (2014) Gray's leaf insect at Venus Drive forest. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 9–10.

Seow-Choen F (2008) Phasmids. In: Davison GWH, Ng PKL & Ho HC (eds.) The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore), Singapore, pp. 95–104, 258.

Yeo RKH (2014) Gray's leaf insect on Pulau Ubin. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 186.