

Biodiversity Record: Ambon onyx butterfly at Yishun Central

Simon Chan Kee Mun

Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, 90 Yishun Central, Singapore 768828; Email: chan.kee.mun@ktp.com.sg

Recommended citation. Chan SKM (2021) Biodiversity Record: Ambon onyx butterfly at Yishun Central. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021072. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0072

Subject: Ambon onyx, *Horaga syrinx maenala* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Lycaeninae).

Subject identified by: Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yishun Central, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; 11 May 2021; 1603 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. Ornamental garden cultivated with various medicinal plants (Fig. 1) within the hospital compound that is densely planted to simulate a forest.

Observer: Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Observation: In cloudy and breezy weather, one adult example was spotted resting on a leaf of a *Rhapis excelsa* palm (Fig. 2) next to a calamansi (*Citrus x microcarpa*) bush (see Fig. 1).

Remarks: In Singapore, the Ambon onyx butterfly is regarded as ‘moderately common’, having been observed in urban parks and gardens as well as in forested areas (Khew, 2015). However, this is the first time the author has seen this species in the compound of the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. *Citrus* plants and *Ixora javanica* are known to be host plants for this butterfly (Khew, 2015). That the subject was found near a calamansi bush suggests that the Ambon onyx could be reproducing in the hospital grounds.

Literature cited:

Khew SK (2015) A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Singapore. 2nd Edition. Ink On Paper Communications Pte Ltd, Singapore, xxv + 375 pp.



Fig. 1. Ornamental garden within the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital compound. The *Rhapis excelsa* palms are in a planter box on the left; the calamansi bush is in the middle. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).



Fig. 2. Lateral view of the Ambon onyx resting on a palm leaf. Forewing length about 15 mm. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).