

Biodiversity Record: A lantern bug, *Pyrops oculatus*, in Thomson Nature Park

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Recommended citation. Ng MFC (2021) Biodiversity Record: A lantern bug, *Pyrops oculatus*, in Thomson Nature Park. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021088. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0088

Subject: Lantern bug, *Pyrops oculatus* (Insecta: Hemiptera: Fulgoridae).

Subject identified by: Marcus F. C. Ng.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Thomson Nature Park; 12 June 2021; 1520 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest regenerated on a former village. The site was a patch of swampy ground next to a small stream, close to a foot path.

Observers: Marcus F. C. Ng and Martin Kennewell.

Observation: One example, with an estimated total length of 7–8 cm, was seen clinging to an unidentified herbaceous plant about 30 cm off the ground (Fig. 1).

Remarks: In Singapore, *Pyrops oculatus* appears to be confined to forest, and was last recorded at Upper Seletar in January 2021 (Kong & Kong, 2021). One individual was photographed in February 2015 along Old Upper Thomson Road near the featured location (Baker, 2015, as *Laternaria oculata*).

Relatively little is known about the biology of *Pyrops oculatus* in Singapore. Leong et al. (2009: 496, as *Laternaria oculata*) documented three individuals in close proximity to each other on the trunk of an albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) tree, and one individual that appeared to be engaging in trophobiosis with a giant forest ant, *Dinomyrmex gigas* (formerly *Camponotus gigas*). It is unclear if the albizia tree serve as a food source. The ant was believed to be soliciting for excess fluid passed out by the lantern bug. Lantern bugs are usually observed on the trunks of large trees, but the featured individual was uncharacteristically clinging to a low herb near the ground.



Fig. 1. Lantern bug clinging to herbaceous plant near the ground. (Photograph by: Marcus F. C. Ng).

Literature cited:

Baker N (2015) Lantern bug *Laternaria oculata* at Upper Thomson. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2015: 35.

Kong E & Kong E (2021) Biodiversity Record: Lantern bug, *Pyrops oculatus*, at Upper Seletar. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021029. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0029

Leong TM, Murphy DH & Leong L (2009) Records of the lantern bug, *Laternaria oculata* (Westwood, 1839), (Homoptera: Fulgoridae: Fulgorinae) in Singapore, with notes on *Zanna nobilis* (Westwood, 1839). Nature in Singapore, 2: 495–501.