

Biodiversity Record: Aberrant Horsfield's baron butterflies at Lornie Nature Corridor

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Subjects: Horsfield's baron, *Tanaecia iapis puseda* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae).

Subjects identified by: Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Lornie Nature Corridor along Lornie Road; 4 April 2021 at 1226 hrs (male) and 3 July 2021 at 1045 hrs (female).

Habitat: Secondary forest edge.

Observer: Simon Chan Kee Mun.

Observation: On the cloudy afternoon of 4 April 2021, an aberrant male (Fig. 1) with a large pink patch on the dorsal side of each hind wing was seen flying back and forth along the forest fringe along a drain. On the sunny morning of 3 July 2021, an aberrant female (Fig. 3) with a series of brown blotches on the upper side of the forewings was spotted at the forest fringe along a pavement. Both specimens have a forewing length of around 3 cm.

Remarks: The Horsfield's baron is a common butterfly in Singapore's forests. It is sexually dimorphic (Figs. 2, 4) and the males appear to be territorial (Khew, 2015: 131). The two featured examples bear slightly different colour markings from most Horsfield's barons (see Figs. 2, 4; Tan, 2011; Khew, 2015: 131), for which males lack the large pink patch on the hindwings, and females bear a series of V-shaped marks on the forewings. They are regarded as aberrant and worthy of note.



Fig. 1. An aberrant male Horsfield's baron from Lornie Nature Corridor, with an abnormally large pink patch on the dorsal side of both hind wings. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).



Fig. 2. Normal male Horsfield's baron without the pink patch on either one of his hind wings. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).



Fig. 3. Aberrant female Horsfield's baron from Lornie Nature Corridor, with a series of brown blotches on her forewings. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).



Fig. 4. A normal female Horsfield's baron with a series of V-shaped marks on her forewings. (Photograph by: Simon Chan Kee Mun).

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.

Tan H (2011) Life History of the Horsfield's baron. Butterflies of Singapore. A Tribute to Nature's Flying Jewels. <https://butterflycircle.blogspot.com/2011/04/life-history-of-horsfields-baron.html?m=1> (Accessed 8 September 2021).