

Biodiversity Record: Pied imperial pigeons feeding on wayside tree

Tan Heok Hui

Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore, 2 Conservatory Drive, Singapore 117377;
Email: heokhui@nus.edu.sg

Recommended citation. Tan HH (2021) Biodiversity Record: Pied imperial pigeons feeding on wayside tree. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021122. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0122

Subjects: Pied imperial pigeon, *Ducula bicolor*
(Aves: Columbiformes: Columbidae);
Shore eugenia, *Syzygium antisepticum*
(Magnoliophyta: Myrtales: Myrtaceae).

Subjects identified by: Tan Heok Hui.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yew Tee estate, Choa Chu Kang North 7; 31 July 2021; 0935–0945 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland, trees at roadside of a residential area with concrete high-rise buildings.

Observers: Tan Heok Hui and Koh Li Ling.

Observation: Up to seven *Ducula bicolor* individuals were sighted on a small *Syzygium antisepticum* tree (around 3 m tall), feeding off its small white fruits (Figs. 1, 2). The pigeons picked the white fruits (each about 1 cm in diameter) individually off the branches and swallowed them whole, one at a time (Fig. 1). Other birds observed (but not photographed) feeding on the same tree with the pigeons include the Javan mynah (*Acridotheres javanicus*) and yellow-vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*).

Remarks: The pied imperial pigeon is an “uncommon non-breeding visitor and possibly resident” bird in Singapore that occurs in small flocks travelling in search of fruiting trees, although groups on the southwestern part of Singapore Island are believed to consist of free-flying birds from private collections (Yong et al., 2017).



Fig. 1. A pied imperial pigeon holding a *Syzygium* fruit in its bill before swallowing. (Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui).

Syzygium antisepticum, commonly planted along roadsides in Singapore, is a species of tree that is native to the coastal areas of Southeast Asia (Soh et al., 2020).

Literature cited:

- Soh W, Kobayashi T, Tang J, Teo J, Tay PCL & Low WT (2020) 1001 Garden Plants in Singapore. A New Compendium. Trees, Palms and Cycads. National Parks Board, Singapore, x + 312 pp.
Yong DL, Lim KC & Lee TK (2017) A Naturalist's Guide to the Birds of Singapore. 3rd Edition. John Beaufoy Publishing Ltd, Oxford, England, 176 pp.



Fig. 2. Pied imperial pigeons (at least five individuals in the picture) feeding on *Syzygium* fruits. (Photograph by: Tan Heok Hui).