

## Biodiversity Record: Jewel beetle at Windsor Nature Park

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**Subject:** Metallic-boring beetle, *Belionota metasticta* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Buprestidae).

**Subject identified by:** Veronica Tse Fen Foo.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Windsor Nature Park; 1 November 2021; around 1320 hrs.

**Habitat:** Edge of secondary forest.

**Observer:** Veronica Tse Fen Foo.

**Observation:** A beetle of about 5–6 cm was seen at the start of a downpour, moving in circles on top of a wooden post, about 3 feet off the ground. The post was used for securing rope fencing along a boardwalk beside a stream. The beetle spread its forewings as it moved about (Fig. 1A, B). The dorsal surface of each forewing is blackish with a red patch in the middle section. The dorsal surface of the abdomen, exposed by the open forewings, is a bright, metallic green. The beetle circled a couple of times before coming to rest with its forewings folded over its back (Fig. 1C).



Fig. 1. Jewel beetle at Windsor Nature Park, Singapore. A, dorsal view of beetle spreading its forewings. B, beetle moving in circles on top of the wooden post with its forewings open; note the metallic green back of the abdomen. C, beetle coming to rest with its forewings folded back in place. (Photographs by: Veronica Foo Tse Fen).

**Remarks:** *Belionota metasticta* appears to be rarely seen in Singapore. The Biodiversity of Singapore (2022) website features an image of a specimen in the Natural History Museum (London) that was collected by H. N. Ridley from Singapore around 1904. The species was reported by Ho et al. (2019) during a recent survey of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

Other confamilial jewel beetles recently observed in Singapore include *Chrysobothris discedens* at Lornie Nature Corridor (Chan, 2021), and *Chrysochroa purpureiventris* at Bukit Timah Hill and Dairy Farm Nature Park (Law et al., 2020). Curiously, the jewel beetle at Dairy Farm Nature Park was also found on top of a wooden post.

### Literature cited:

Biodiversity of Singapore (2022) *Belionota metasticta*. <https://singapore.biodiversity.online/species/A-Arth-Hexa-Coleoptera-000490> (Accessed 3 January 2022).

Chan SKM (2021) Biodiversity Record: A metallic wood-boring beetle, *Chrysobothris discedens*. Nature in Singapore, 14: e2021078. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2021-0078

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Law IT, Lee J, Chakraborty D & Law IS (2020) Recent records of the jewel beetle, *Chrysochroa purpureiventris*, in Singapore. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 173–174.