

Biodiversity Record: Lynx spider guarding egg sac on a leaf suspended in mid-air

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Subject: Lynx spider, probably *Hamadruas* sp. (Arachnida: Araneae: Oxyopidae).

Subject identified by: Tan En Ping and Zick Soh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar; 16 September 2021; 1200 hrs.

Habitat: Fringes of a freshwater swamp forest, in the shade of a tree.

Observers: Tan En Ping and Zick Soh.

Observation: One example of about 25 mm in body length was found crouched over its egg sac on the upper surface of a partially folded dried leaf (Fig. 1). The leaf was suspended in mid-air, about 160 cm off the ground between two branches, and held on each side by a few strands of spider-silk.

Remarks: The featured lynx spider appears to be a forest-dwelling species that probably belongs to the genus *Hamadruas* (see Deeleman-Reinhold, 2009).

The spider's method of placing the egg sac on a leaf suspended in mid-air seems to be an efficient way of keeping its offspring safe from potential predators. The presence of a parent standing guard over the eggs lends an extra level of protection. Patil (2017) mentions a similar observation, probably in India, that shows an unidentified species of *Hamadruas* protecting its egg sac in the same manner.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the unidentified lynx spider with head pointing downwards, guarding its egg sac (the foamy mass beneath its carapace and six legs) on a dead leaf suspended in mid-air between two branches. (Photograph by: Tan En Ping).

Literature cited:

Deeleman-Reinhold CL (2009) Description of the lynx spiders of a canopy fogging project in northern Borneo (Araneae: Oxyopidae), with description of a new genus and six new species of *Hamataliwa*. *Zoologische Mededelingen*, 83: 673–700.

Patil V (2017) The legs that rock the cradle. Spider mothers. *Resonance*, 22: 455–460.