

Biodiversity Record: New record of Moore's ace butterfly, *Halpe porus*, in Singapore

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Subject: Moore's ace, *Halpe porus* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae).

Subject identified by: Jonathan Soong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Road; 12 February 2022 at 1351 hrs and 14 February 2022 at 1142 hrs.

Habitat: Grass field on the fringes of secondary forest.

Observer: Zick Soh Shun Hua.

Observation: On 12 February, one example of about 2 cm body length was observed fluttering among patches of *Bidens alba* (Fig 1). The butterfly flew rapidly from flower to flower, stopping to sip nectar from the blossoms. On 14 February, another individual (Fig. 2) was sighted fluttering about in the same patch of flowers.

Remarks: *Halpe porus* is herein presented as a new record for Singapore for there seems to be no previous record from the country (see Khew, 2015; Jain et al., 2018). This small butterfly is widely distributed from India and the Andaman Islands to Myanmar, southern China, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and West Malaysia (Inayoshi, 2022; Nitin et al., 2018; Corbet & Pendlebury, 1992). Although its presence in Singapore can be expected, it is uncertain if this species is native to Singapore, or a recent arrival due to range expansion, or introduction via horticultural materials. It would seem quite unlikely for a butterfly that frequents exposed habitats to have been previously overlooked.

In India, the bamboos *Bambusa tuldoidea*, *Bambusa vulgaris* and *Ochlandra scriptoria* are known hostplants for *Halpe porus* (Nitin et al., 2018). The observer has noted that there were large clumps of bamboo near the location of the present record, which suggests the presence of a breeding population in the area.

Literature cited:

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Fig. 1. *Halpe porus* feeding on a flower of *Bidens alba* on 12 February 2022. (Photograph by: Zick Soh Shun Hua)



Fig. 2. A different *Halpe porus* in the same patch of vegetation on 14 February 2022. (Photograph by: Zick Soh Shun Hua)