

## Biodiversity Record: A trilobite beetle, *Platerodrilus ngi*, at Dairy Farm Nature Park

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**Subject:** Trilobite beetle, *Platerodrilus ngi* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Lycidae).

**Subject identified by:** Ivan Neo.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Dairy Farm Nature Park; 28 June 2022; around 0922 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest.

**Observers:** Ivan Neo and Regina Enxi Lai.

**Observation:** A female example of about 8 cm long and 1.5 cm wide (Fig. 1) was found in the corner of an observation platform. It moved occasionally and the abdomen appeared to be unusually distended.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the female trilobite beetle. (Photograph by: Ivan Neo)

**Remarks:** The trilobite beetle, *Platerodrilus ngi*, was described in 2014 based on specimens from Singapore and Pulau Tioman. The adult females remain in larval form while the much smaller and winged adult male beetles are only 6.9 mm in body length, and are dark brown to black with the head, prothorax, mesoscutellum and basal two-thirds of the elytra dark red (Masek & Bocak, 2014). According to Lok (2008 as *Duliticola* sp.), *Platerodrilus ngi* is locally restricted to the forests of the Bukit Timah and Central Catchment Nature Reserves.

The unusually distended abdomen of the featured example (Fig. 2) could indicate that the insect was gravid, but this cannot be confirmed. Prior to the featured individual, a smaller female *Platerodrilus ngi* was photographed at Dairy Farm Nature Park in 2017 by Reynard Quek (Fig. 3).

**Literature cited:**

Masek M & Bocak L (2014) The taxonomy and diversity of *Platerodrilus* (Coleoptera, Lycidae) inferred from molecular data and morphology of adults and larvae. *Zookeys*, 426: 29–63.

Lok AFSL (2008) A Singapore trilobite larva, *Duliticola* species. *Nature in Singapore*, 1: 175–178.



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the same insect showing the distended abdomen. (Photograph by: Ivan Neo).



Fig. 3. Previous sighting of a smaller *Platerodrilus ngi* at Dairy Farm Nature Park in 2017. (Photograph by: Reynard Quek)