

Biodiversity Record: A potter wasp of the genus *Phimenes* at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

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Subject: Potter wasp, *Phimenes* sp. (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae).

Subject identified by: John S. Ascher.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve; 9 August 2022; around 1109 hrs.

Habitat: Mangrove forest.

Observers: Ong Jun Xiang Lumin, Lee Yu Xuan and Xaven Wong.

Observation: A potter wasp of about 3 cm body length (Fig. 1) was observed circling around several mud lobster mounds (Fig. 2), landing periodically on, and attempting to collect substrate from the mounds.



Fig. 1. Latero-frontal view of the potter wasp obtaining substances from the surface of a mud lobster mound. Fig. 2 The mud lobster mound where the subject was observed. (Photographs by: Ong Jun Xiang Lumin).

Remarks: The genus *Phimenes* comprises solitary wasps distributed across the Indo-Malayan region that construct nests largely of mud. *Phimenes flavopictus* seems to be the only species recorded from Singapore (Nguyen et al., 2016). The featured example does not match the *Phimenes flavopictus* illustrated in the website of The Biodiversity of Singapore (<https://singapore.biodiversity.online/species/A-Arth-Hexa-Hymenoptera-000240>). Nor does it appear similar to potter wasps of the genus *Delta* such as *Delta pyriforme* (see The Biodiversity of Singapore <https://singapore.biodiversity.online/species/A-Arth-Hexa-Hymenoptera-000283>). Although its species identity is unknown, the present observation appears to be of a species of *Phimenes* that has not been recorded in Singapore.

Literature cited:

Nguyen L, Nguyen D & Carpenter J (2016) Additions to the knowledge of the genus *Phimenes* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) from Vietnam. Animal Systematics, Evolution and Diversity, 32: 21–27.