

## Biodiversity Record: The spiny insect, *Haaniella macroptera*, in Nee Soon Swamp Forest

Ivan Neo

Email: [ivan.neo@u.nus.edu](mailto:ivan.neo@u.nus.edu)

**Recommended citation.** Neo I (2023) Biodiversity Record: The spiny insect, *Haaniella macroptera*, in Nee Soon Swamp Forest. Nature in Singapore, 16: e2023015. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2023-0015

---

**Subjects:** Long-winged haaniella, *Haaniella macroptera* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Heteropterygidae).

**Subjects identified by:** Ivan Neo.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Nee Soon Swamp Forest, 21 December 2022; around 2000 hrs.

**Habitat:** Freshwater swamp forest, in clearing dominated by resam (*Dicranopteris linearis*).

**Observers:** Ivan Neo and Ming Kai Tan.

**Observations:** At 2000 hrs, the observers noticed an immature example of about 8 cm (Fig. 1) perched on a leaf of the hairy clidemia (*Miconia crenata*) along the trail. Shortly after, a mature female of about 12 cm (Fig. 2) was spotted about two metres away along the trail, also perched on hairy clidemia leaves, at the edge of a clearing dominated by resam (*Dicranopteris linearis*). Both specimens were about one metre off the ground, and they did not appear to be feeding on the plants.

**Remarks:** *Haaniella muelleri* is presently regarded as a synonym of *Haaniella macroptera* (see Hennemann et al., 2016). The featured sightings appear to be the third record of this species in Singapore since the previous observation in January 2010 by Lim & Leong (2013 as *Haaniella muelleri*). According to Seow-Choen (2017), this locally endangered species is restricted to areas of forest which frequently experience flooding. The present record of both immature and mature individuals indicates the continued presence of this locally endangered species (see Seow-Choen, 2008 as *Haaniella muelleri*) in the Nee Soon Swamp Forest.

**Note:** This observation was made during a faunistic fieldwork survey for pygmy grasshoppers (Orthoptera: Tetrigidae) under NParks permit NP/RP22-096.

### Literature cited:

- Hennemann FH, Conle OV, Brock PD & Seow-Choen F (2016) Revision of the Oriental subfamily Heteropteryginae Kirby, 1896, with a re-arrangement of the family Heteropterygidae and the descriptions of five new species of *Haaniella* Kirby, 1904. (Phasmatodea: Areolatae: Heteropterygidae). Zootaxa, 4159: 1–219.
- Lim KKP & Leong TM (2013) Müller's spiny insect at Nee Soon swamp-forest. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2013: 23.
- Seow-Choen F (2008) Phasmids. In: Davison GWH, Ng PKL & Ho HC (eds.) The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore. 2nd edition. Nature Society (Singapore), pp. 95–104.
- Seow-Choen F (2017) A Taxonomic Guide to the Stick Insects of Singapore. Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn Bhd., Sabah, Malaysia, ix + 165 pp.



Fig. 1. In-situ lateral (A) and dorsal (B) views of immature *Haaniella macroptera* on a *Miconia crenata* leaf. (Photographs by: Ivan Neo).



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view (A) of mature female *Haaniella macroptera* among foliage of *Miconia crenata*. Close-up lateral view of the head and anterior body (B). (Photographs by: Ivan Neo).