

Biodiversity Record: A riverhawk dragonfly, *Onychothemis testacea*, at Yishun Central

Simon Chan Kee Mun

Email: simonchan268@yahoo.com.sg

Recommended citation. Chan SKM (2023) Biodiversity Record: A riverhawk dragonfly, *Onychothemis testacea*, at Yishun Central. Nature in Singapore, 16: e2023091. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2023-0091

Subject: Riverhawk, *Onychothemis testacea* (Insecta: Odonata: Nymphalidae, Nymphalinae).

Subject identified by: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Yishun Central, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; 29 May 2023; 1302 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. In the basement of a concrete building.

Observer: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Observation: A dead example with a body length of about 8 cm (Figs. 1, 2) was found indoors on the ledge of a glass window.

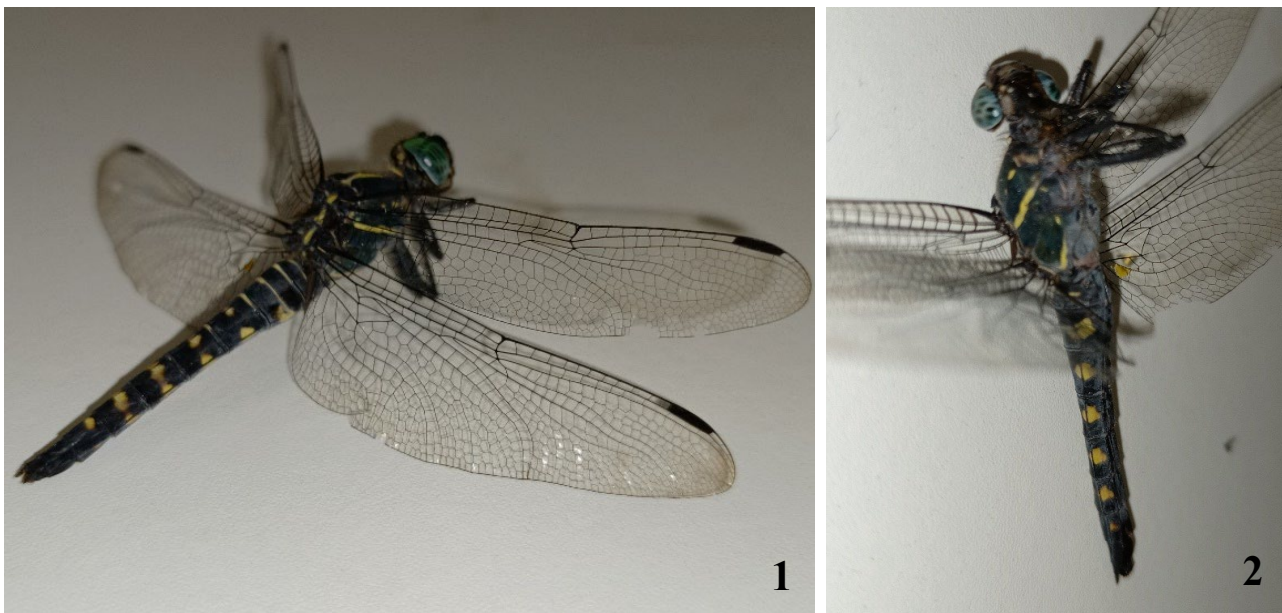


Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of the dead dragonfly. Fig. 2. Latero-ventral view of the specimen (Photographs by: Simon Kee Mun Chan).

Remarks: According to Ngiam & Ng (2022), the riverhawk has a restricted distribution in Singapore where it was recorded sporadically from forest streams in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. It is apparently very rare and thus, regarded as ‘endangered’ in the country. The observer believes that the featured specimen could have strayed from its natural habitat, and flew into the building where it subsequently perished after it could not find its way out.

The maximum body length of *Onychothemis testacea* is stated to be 50 mm in literature (e.g., Tang et al., 2010; Ngiam & Ng, 2022). Although the featured specimen was estimated to be 80 mm, this cannot be confirmed because the specimen was not actually measured, and there is no scale bar in the photographs for reference.

Literature cited:

Ngiam RWJ & Ng MFC (2022) A Photographic Field Guide to the Dragonflies & Damselflies of Singapore. John Beaufoy Publishing, United Kingdom, 340 pp.

Tang HB, Wang LK & Hamalainen M (2010) A Photographic Guide to the Dragonflies of Singapore. The Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 222 pp.