

## Biodiversity Record: A lace bug, *Stephanitis typicus*

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**Subject:** Lace bug, *Stephanitis typicus* (Insecta: Hemiptera: Tingidae).

**Subject identified by:** Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island; Hougang Avenue 10; 22 July 2023; around 1110 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban parkland.

**Observer:** Lau Wing Lup.



Figs. 1–4. Habitus of an adult *Stephanitis typicus* — Fig. 1. Dorsal view. Fig. 2. Lateral view of right side. Fig. 3. Lateral view of left side. Fig. 4. Dorso-frontal view (Photographs: by: Lau Wing Lup).

**Observation:** A single adult of about 3 mm (length from tip of snout to tip of elytra) was found on the trunk of a coconut palm (Figs. 1–4).

**Remarks:** The lace bug, *Stephanitis typicus*, is widely distributed throughout much of Southeast Asia and the tropical west Pacific, including India, Sri Lanka, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Philippines (Chandra, 1996; Poorani et al., 2019). It is a major pest of coconut and infests other plants like the noni tree *Morinda citrifolia* (Cheong, 2013), as well as banana, turmeric, ginger and cardamom (Poorani et al., 2019). Locally, the predatory plant bug *Apollodorus praefectus* (Miridae) is a predator of *Stephanitis typicus* (see Cheong, 2013). Although apparently common, this tiny but unusual looking insect seems to be rarely noticed.

**Literature cited:**

Chandra K (1996) The lace-bugs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tingidae: Hemiptera: Insecta). Journal of the Andaman Science Association, 12: 82–83.

Cheong LF (2013) Insect conservation in Singapore - an assessment. In: Proceedings of Nature Society, Singapore's Conference on 'Nature Conservation for a Sustainable Singapore', 16th October 2011, pp. 29–39.

Poorani J, Padmanaban B & Thanigairaj R (2019) Natural enemies of banana lacewing bug, *Stephanitis typica* (Distant) in India, including first report of *Anagrus* sp. (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae) as its egg parasitoid. Munis Entomology & Zoology, 14: 83–87.