

Biodiversity Record: Occurrence of the damselfly, *Aciagrion borneense*, at Admiralty Lane

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Subject: Bornean slim, *Aciagrion borneense* (Insecta: Odonata: Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae).

Subject identified by: Robin W. J. Ngiam.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Admiralty Lane; 23 December 2023, 1058 hrs.

Habitat: Suburban. Ephemeral freshwater pond in open, vacant, grassy field close to a road and forest dominated by exotic vegetation (Fig. 4).

Observer: Zick Soh Shun-Hua.

Observation: A male example (Figs. 1–3) of about 3 cm in body length, was photographed perched near the water surface on a grass stalk. The insect was relatively inactive after settling on the plant, and allowed the observer to approach close enough to obtain close-up images. The individual began to fly after a couple of minutes, and appeared to keep towards open areas rather than fly into dense vegetation.

Remarks: *Aciagrion borneense* inhabits open areas bordering forest in lowlands, where it tends to be locally common (Orr, 2003). This species was first recorded in Singapore at Holland Plain marsh in 2022 (Ngiam et al., 2023). Since then, more observations of this species have been made at the same site: a single male on 30 July 2023 (Tang Hung Bun, pers. comms.); one male on 16 December 2023 (Zick Soh Shun-Hua, pers. obs.); and at least four males on 17 December 2023 (Fiora Li, pers. comms.; see https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?on=2023-12-17&place_id=6734&taxon_id=86216). Regardless of the origin of the first discovery, the more recent 2023 sightings strongly suggest that *Aciagrion borneense* is established locally.

The present record at Admiralty Lane is a new location for *Aciagrion borneense*. Although it appears to indicate a range extension across Singapore Island, it could also be possible that the species was overlooked due to its small size and apparent rarity. In Singapore, *Aciagrion borneense* has been observed to be more active, and thus more conspicuous, in the afternoon or in cloudy weather (Marcus Ng, pers. comms.).

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Literature cited:

Ngiam RWJ, Thio HB & Tang HB (2023) Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the damselfly, *Aciagrion borneense*. Nature in Singapore, 16: e2023024.

Orr AG (2003) A Guide to the Dragonflies of Borneo. Their Identification and Biology. Natural History Publications, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, 205 pp.

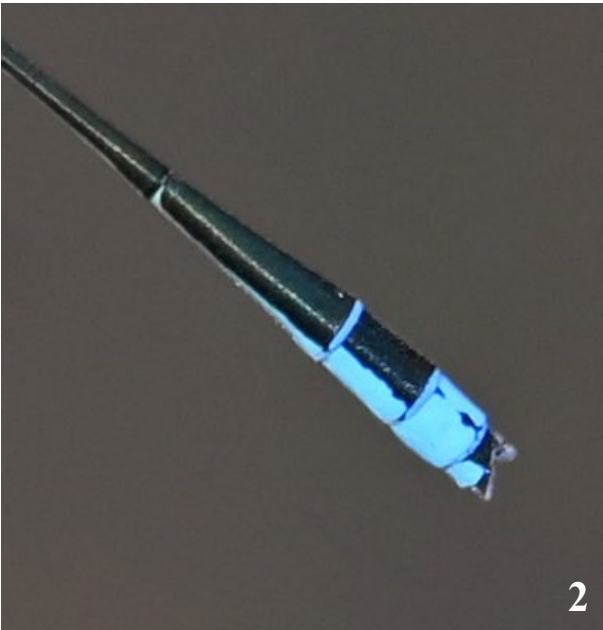


Fig. 1. Dorso-lateral view of *Aciagrion borneense* in-situ. Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of the anal appendage of *Aciagrion borneense*. Fig. 3. Dorsal view of the same *Aciagrion borneense*. Fig. 4. Ephemeral freshwater pond in the open field at Admiralty Lane on 23 December 2023 (Photographs by: Zick Soh Shun-Hua).