

Owl moth *Erebus ephesperis* visiting *Hoya* inflorescence

Subjects: Owl moth, *Erebus ephesperis* (Lepidoptera: Erebidae).
Dinner plate hoya, *Hoya latifolia* (Magnoliophyta: Apocynaceae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah, Greenbank Park; 1 June 2006; 2110-2120 hrs.

Habitat: Garden in suburban housing estate at the edge of secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: A large moth with wingspan of about 10 cm was observed fluttering and eventually landing on the inflorescence of a dinner plate hoya (Fig. 1). It proceeded to stick its proboscis into the flowers (Fig. 2) and stayed immobile for a few minutes. It flew away after presumably feeding on the nectar.

Remarks: *Erebus ephesperis* has been recorded to feed on the ripened fruit of *Melastoma malabathricum* (Leong, 2011). The sap from bruised or cracked tree bark from a freshly fallen tree has also attracted this moth. The present observation has apparently not been recorded before, and it is not known if the moth serves as a pollinator for *Hoya latifolia*.

Reference: Leong T. M., 2011. The caterpillar and metamorphosis of *Erebus ephesperis* (Hübner, 1827) in Singapore (Lepidoptera: Erebidae: Erebinae: Erebini). *Nature in Singapore*. 4: 177-191.



Figure 1. Dorsal surface of *Erebus ephesperis* on *Hoya latifolia* inflorescence.



Figure 2. Side view of the head of *Erebus ephesperis* with extended proboscis probing into *Hoya* flowers.

Photographs by Tan Heok Hui

Contributor: **Tan Heok Hui**
Contact address: heokhui@nus.edu.sg