

Cave fruit bat and mourning gecko on golden penda tree

Subjects: Cave nectar bat, *Eonycteris spelaea* (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae); Fig. 1.
Mourning gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae); Fig. 2.
Golden penda tree, *Xanthostemon chrysanthus* (Magnoliophyta: Myrtaceae); Fig. 1 & 2.

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Clementi Central, along Clementi Avenue 3; April 2012.

Habitat: Urban high-rise housing estate.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: The animals visiting the flowers of the golden penda were photographed from a window of an apartment on the third floor.

The cave nectar bat was photographed on 5 April 2012 at 2149 hrs. As seen in figure 1, its flight membranes appear to be covered with yellow pollen, presumably from having brushed against the blossoms. The bat's tongue was extruded, presumably having licked, or preparing to lick, nectar from the flowers. Apart from this species, common fruit bats (*Cynopterus brachyotis*), distinguished by their relatively shorter snouts and reddish-brown coloration, were also observed visiting the flowers.

An adult mourning gecko of about 8 cm total length was photographed on 4 April 2012 at 1944 hrs. It was nestled among the blossoms, most likely there to consume nectar from the flowers.

Remarks: The golden penda, grown as an ornamental tree in Singapore, is native to Australia (Boo et al., 2006: 745). It appears that the animals that visit the flowers for the nectar are capable of acting as pollinators for this alien tree.

References:

Baker, N. & K. K. P. Lim, 2012. *Wild Animals of Singapore. A Photographic Guide to Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians and Freshwater Fishes*. Updated edition. Draco Publishing and Distribution Pte. Ltd. and Nature Society (Singapore). 82 pp.

Boo C. M, K. Omar-Hor & C. L. Ou-Yang, 2006. *1001 Garden Plants in Singapore*. Second edition. National Parks Board, Singapore. x + 798 pp.

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Fig. 1. Cave nectar bat flying towards golden penda blossoms.



Fig. 2. Mourning gecko among golden penda blossoms.

Photographs by Chan Kwok Wai