

Gray's leaf insect at Venus Drive forest

Subjects: Gray's leaf insect, *Phyllium bioculatum* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Phylliidae).
Common kelat, *Syzygium* cf. *lineatum* (Magnoliophyta: Myrtaceae).

Subjects identified by: Marcus A. H. Chua & Kelvin K. P. Lim (insects), Chong Kwek Yan (plant).

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, forest off Venus Drive, adjacent to MacRitchie forest along Thomson Ridge; 20 December 2013 at 2115 hrs and 27 December 2013 at 1830 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observer: Marcus A. H. Chua & Kelvin K. P. Lim (27 December only).

Observation: Two leaf insects, a larger all-green female (Fig. 1; approximately 9 cm in total length) and a smaller yellowish male with reddish brown markings (Fig. 2; approximately 6 cm in total length) were found next to each other on a *Syzygium* cf. *lineatum* tree, about 2.5 m off above the ground on 20 December 2013. The female was feeding on the leaves of the tree. The sky was overcast, and there was a slight drizzle. A female leaf insect (presumably the same individual) was seen on the same tree again on 27 December 2013 (Fig. 3).

Remarks: There are two forms of *Phyllium bioculatum*. One with a tapered abdomen, the other has the margins of the 8th abdominal segment lobed. The species is known to feed on the foliage of mango (*Mangifera indica*), rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum*) and guava (*Psidium guajava*) (Seow-Choen, 2005: 108). The leaf insects in the present observation have tapered abdomens. *Phyllium bioculatum* is listed as vulnerable to national extinction in Singapore (Seow-Choen, 2008: 258).

References:

Seow-Choen, F., 2005. *Phasmids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore*. Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., Sabah, Malaysia. vi + 120 pp.

Seow-Choen, F., 2008. Phasmids. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (Eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second Edition. The Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 95–104, 258.



Fig. 1. Female (left) and partially hidden male (right, indicated by arrow) on 20 December 2013.
Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua



Fig. 2. Male Gray's leaf insect on 20 December 2013.

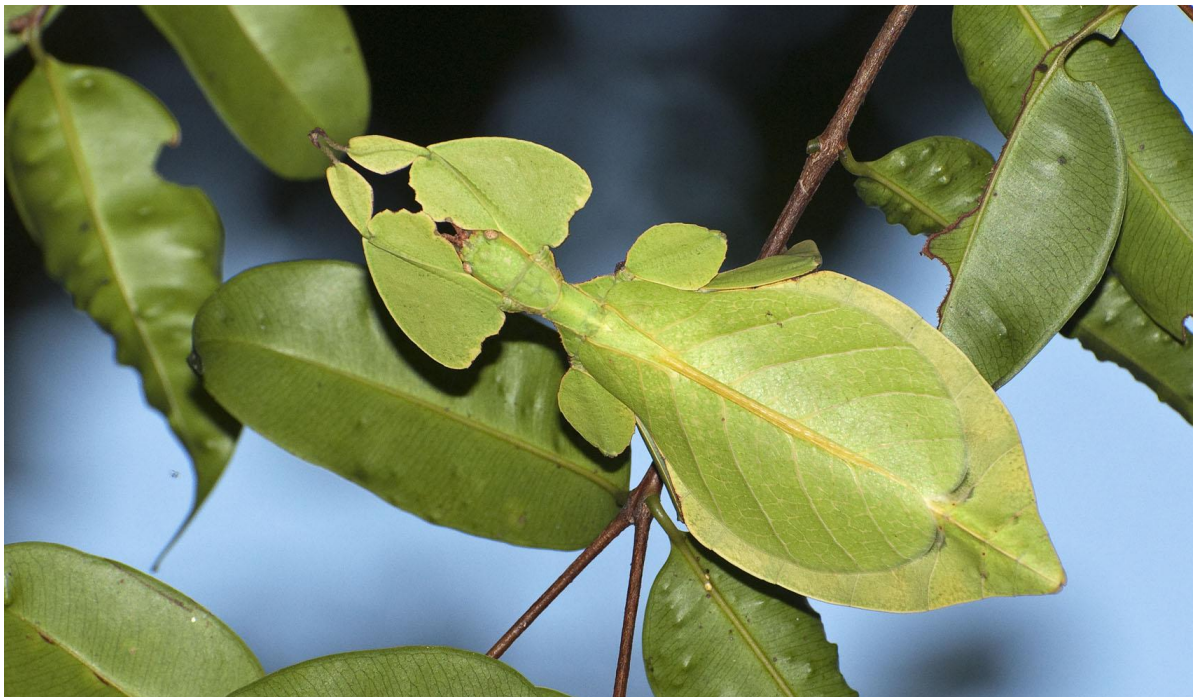


Fig. 3. Female Gray's leaf insect on 27 December 2013.

Photographs by Marcus A. H. Chua

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