

Gray's leaf insect on Pulau Ubin

Subject: Gray's leaf insect, *Phyllium bioculatum* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Phylliidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, at the central part of the eastern half of the island; 26 June 2014; 2256 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest and rural village.

Observers: Contributor with Fung Tze Kwan, Xu Weiting, Randolph Quek, Mary Ruth Low and Hazelina Yeo.

Observation: An adult female of about 9 cm total length was found at about 2 m off the ground on a rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum*) tree, on the underside of a sprig of leaves (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: Due to their effective camouflage, leaf insects are difficult to find even if they are not necessarily rare. The Gray's leaf insect seems adaptable to life in forest edges and farmlands where its food plants are found. A pair was recently reported from the Venus Drive forest on Singapore Island (Chua et al., 2014).

Reference: Chua, M. A. H., K. K. P. Lim & K. Y. Chong, 2014. Gray's leaf insect at Venus Drive forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 9-10.



Photograph by Ron K. H. Yeo

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