

A colour-changing shield bug, *Enada rosea*, at Kent Ridge

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Subject: Shield bug, *Enada rosea* (Insecta: Hemiptera: Tessaratomidae).

Subject identified by: Foo Maosheng.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kent Ridge, Conservatory Drive; 6 October 2017; 1600 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. On the roadside.

Observers: Lee Khek Yan and Foo Maosheng.

Observation: An example of about 2 cm body length was found clinging on to Lee Khek Yan. It was initially green in colour (Fig. 1), but turned reddish (Fig. 2) after it was held captive in a bare plastic container for around 24 hours. When disturbed, it produced an almond-like smell.



Fig 1. *Enada rosea* (dorso-lateral view on left, dorsal view on right) appears green as it was found. Photographs by Foo Maosheng



Fig 2. The same bug (dorso-lateral view on left, dorsal view on right) became red after 24 hours. Photographs by Foo Maosheng

Remarks: Shield bugs are so-called as their bodies resemble the shape of a shield. As they will secrete defensive chemicals when provoked, they are also known as stink bugs (Gillott, 2005). Members of the family Tessaratomidae tend to exhibit vivid or vibrant colours as a warning to potential predators that they are distasteful (Endler & Mappes, 2004). It appears that very little is known of the life history of *Enada rosea* (Schwertner & Grazia, 2015). The colour change on the featured bug may have been because it was freshly moulted when it was found. It turned red probably with the hardening of its exoskeleton.

References:

- Endler, J. A., & J. Mappes, 2004. Predator mixes and the conspicuousness of aposematic signals. *The American Naturalist*. 163(4): 532-547.
- Gillott, C., 2005. *Entomology*. Third edition. Springer Science & Business Media. xviii + 832 pp.
- Schwertner, C. F. & J. Grazia, 2015. Less diverse pentatomoid families (Acanthosomatidae, Canopidae, Dinidoridae, Megarididae, Phloeidae, and Tessaratomidae). In: Panizzi, A. R. & J. Grazia (eds.). *True Bugs (Heteroptera) of the Neotropics*. Springer, Netherlands. pp. 821-862.