

The Malayan nawab, *Polyura moori*, in Singapore

Yi-Kai Tea, Lena Chow, Jonathan Soong & Michael Soh.

teayk1@gmail.com (Tea)

Subjects: Malayan nawab, *Polyura moori moori* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae).

Subjects identified by: Yi-Kai Tea, Lena Chow, Jonathan Soong & Michael Soh.

Location, date and time: Pulau Ubin, Butterfly Hill; 15 Nov, 2012, 1350 hrs; 30 Nov, 2014, 1150 hrs; 27 Oct, 2018, 1447 hrs.

Habitat: Scrub vegetation on exposed hilltop.

Observers: Lena Chow, Jonathan Soong & Michael Soh.

Observations: Adults of this species were photographed on three separate occasions from 2012 to 2018 at the same locality:

1. An example was photographed perched upside down, on a branch of *Citharexylum spinosum* by Lena Chow on the afternoon of 15 November 2012 (iNaturalist, 2012; Fig. 1A). No feeding activity was observed.
2. One was encountered perched with its head pointing downwards on a large tree by Jonathan Soong on the morning of 30 November 2014 (Fig. 1B).
3. One was seen feeding on the ripened fruits of *Melastoma malabathricum* by Michael Soh on the afternoon of 27 October 2018 (iNaturalist, 2018; Fig. 2).

Remarks: The Malayan nawab was recorded in Singapore by Corbet & Pendlebury (1992), although no sightings have been made in the years following that. Rediscoveries of this species in Singapore are reported by Khew (2015: 92) and Jain et al. (2018: 223) based in part on the 2012 and 2014 records presented here. In addition, a third and most recent record is featured here. Details in wing colouration for the subjects in all the photographs agree well with *Polyura moori* as defined by Corbet and Pendlebury (1992), in having a large silvery-green patch over one third of the ventral wing surface (more than half the wing in *Polyura jalysus*, and a quarter in *Polyura hebe*).

In Singapore, the Malayan nawab is presently known only from Pulau Ubin, with all three recent records centered around Butterfly Hill, and in the months of October and November. In Singapore, the species is regarded as a 'very rare (seasonal migrant)' by Khew (2015: 92), and as a 'vagrant' by Jain et al. (2018: 223).

References:

- Corbet, A. S. & H. M. Pendlebury, 1992. *The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula*. 4th edition (revised by J. N. Eliot). Malayan Nature Society, Kuala Lumpur. x + 595 pp.
- iNaturalist, 2012. Malayan Nawab (*Polyura moori*). Observed: Nov 15, 2012. Submitted: May 9, 2017. <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/6148861>
- iNaturalist, 2018. Malayan Nawab (*Polyura moori*). Observed: Oct 27, 2018. Submitted: Oct 29, 2018. <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/17932034>
- Jain A., S. K. Khew, C. W. Gan & E. L. Webb, 2018. Butterfly extirpations, discoveries and rediscoveries in Singapore over 28 years. *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. 66: 217–257.
- Khew S. K., 2015. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Singapore*. 2nd edition. Ink On Paper Communications Pte Ltd., Singapore. xxv + 375 pp.

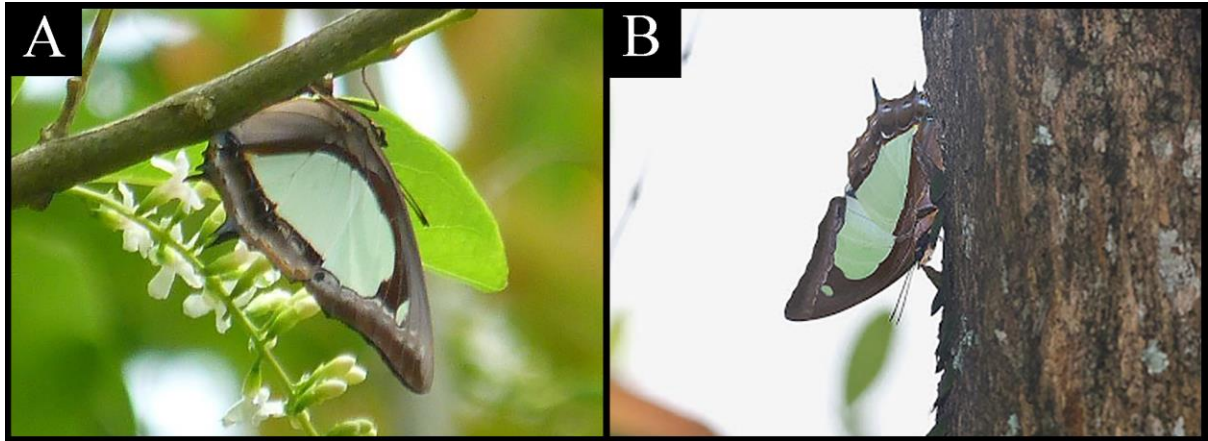


Fig. 1. Ventral views of Malayan nawab observed at Butterfly Hill on Pulau Ubin. Note the silvery-green patch covering about a third of the ventral wing surface. A. Example on 15 November 2012. Photograph by Lena Chow. B. Example on 30 November 2014. Photograph by Jonathan Soong



Fig. 2. A Malayan nawab feeding on ripened fruits of *Melastoma malabathricum* at Butterfly Hill, Pulau Ubin, on 27 October 2018. Note pristine condition of the wings. Photograph by Michael Soh