

A striped jay, *Graphium bathycles*, at Rifle Range Track

Yi-Kai Tea

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Subject: Striped jay, *Graphium bathycles bathycloides* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Papilionidae).

Subject identified by: Yi-Kai Tea.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Rifle Range Track; 27 May, 2014; 1325 hrs.

Habitat: Open clearing along a sand bank of a stream, flanked by rainforests.

Observer: Yi-Kai Tea.

Observation: A male with pristine wings was observed exhibiting mud-puddling behaviour on an exposed, sand bank of a stream (iNaturalist, 2018; see accompanying picture).

Remarks: The occurrence of the striped or veined jay in Singapore has been reported by Khew (2015: 18) and Jain et al. (2018: 222) based partly on the featured observation, and another photograph of the species said to be taken in Singapore in 2010 (S. Feng, personal communication).

In Singapore, this species is regarded by Khew (2015: 18) to be a 'very rare (seasonal migrant)', and by Jain et al. (2018: 222) to be a 'vagrant'. However, the pristine condition of the featured specimen (as can be seen in the attached picture) suggests recent eclosure from a local provenance, which supports the possibility that the striped jay is a native, albeit exceedingly rare, species in Singapore.



Photograph by Yi-Kai Tea

References:

- iNaturalist, 2018. Striped Jay (*Graphium bathycles*). Observed: May 27, 2014. Submitted: Nov 1, 2018. <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/18005315>
- 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.