

## Malayan spineleg dragonfly at Upper Seletar Reservoir

Veronica Foo Tse Fen & Lim Kim Keang

[veronfoo@yahoo.com](mailto:veronfoo@yahoo.com) (Foo), [kimkeang@outlook.com](mailto:kimkeang@outlook.com) (Lim)

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**Subject:** Malayan spineleg, *Merogomphus femoralis* (Insecta: Odonata: Gomphidae).

**Subject identified by:** Lim Kim Keang and Robin Ngiam.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Central Catchment Nature Reserve, Upper Seletar Reservoir; 11 August 2019; around 1145 hrs.

**Habitat:** Secondary forest edge, at the shore of a freshwater lake.

**Observers:** Lim Kim Keang and Veronica Foo Tse Fen.

**Observation:** On a hot and sunny morning, an example estimated to be around 4 cm body length was observed perched for a few minutes on a leaf of a *Syzygium* tree at about 5 m from the ground. A dorso-lateral view of the dragonfly is shown in the accompanying photograph.

**Remarks:** In Singapore, this rare and ‘critically endangered’ dragonfly is known only from Nee Soon swamp-forest (Soh et al., 2019: 15) which is located at the southern shore of the Upper Seletar Reservoir. The female is apparently undescribed (Tang et al., 2010: 119). The featured dragonfly is believed to be a female of the Malayan spineleg. Compared to the male (see Tang et al., 2010: 119), it has thicker abdominal segments with broader whitish bands. The first abdominal segment also has a single greenish whitish side bar next to the dorsal bar. The male *Merogomphus femoralis* has a total body length of 45 mm (Tang et al., 2010: 119). Without the specimen in hand, it is not possible to gauge the female’s exact size from the photograph.

### References:

- Soh, M., M. Ng & R. W. J. Ngiam, 2019. New Singapore record of a dragonfly, *Indothemis carnatica*, with an updated Singapore Odonata checklist. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2019: 10-17.
- Tang H. B., L. K. Wang & M. Hämäläinen, 2010. *A Photographic Guide to the Dragonflies of Singapore*. The Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore. 222 pp.



Photograph by Veronica Foo Tse Fen