

Biodiversity Record: Predation of a wasp by a land crab, *Geosesarma perracae*

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Subjects: Perracca's land crab, *Geosesarma perracae* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura: Sesarmidae);
Hover wasp, *Eustenogaster micans* (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Vespidae).

Subject identified by: James Chua.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar Reservoir Park; 20 August 2024, around 2025 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest. On the forest floor,

Observer: James Chua.

Observation: While under observation, a Perracca's land crab, of about 10 mm carapace width, caught a wasp (tentatively identified as *Eustenogaster micans*) which was hovering near it. The wasp was caught suddenly and swiftly with the crab's left claw (Fig. 1). The crab proceeded to feed on the wasp by using its smaller right claw to dismember and transfer pieces of its prey to its mouth parts (Fig. 2). Still holding on to the wasp, the crab eventually moved out of the observer's sight into the leaf litter.



Fig. 1. Frontal view of the Peracca's land crab, in-situ, having just caught a wasp with its left claw (Photograph by: James Chua).



Fig. 2. Dorsal view of the crab as it feeds on the wasp (Photograph by: James Chua).

Remarks: *Geosesarma perracae* is a small, semi-terrestrial crab that, in Singapore, is commonly found in lowland swampy forests, usually near freshwater streams or seepage areas (Tan & Ng, 2008). Although it has been described as mainly a scavenger and herbivore (Tan & Ng, 2008), it is known also to feed on detritus and small invertebrates (Ho et al., 2016). The present observation shows that it can be an active opportunistic predator of small flying insects.

Literature cited:

- Ho JKI, Ramchunder SJ, Memory A, Theng M, Li T, Clews E, Cai Y, Tan HH & Yeo DCJ (2016) A Guide to the Freshwater Fauna of Nee Soon Swamp Forest. Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum & Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore, vi+139 pp.
- Tan HH & Ng PKL (2008) First record in Singapore of a nepenthophilous crab, *Geosesarma perracae* (Crustacea: Decapoda: Sesarmidae). *Nature in Singapore*, 1: 201–205.