

## Biodiversity Record: Harlequin cockroach, *Neostylopyga rhombifolia*, at Kent Ridge

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**Subject:** Harlequin cockroach, *Neostylopyga rhombifolia* (Insecta: Blattodea: Blattidae).

**Subject identified by:** Choo Ruirong.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Kent Ridge, campus of the National University of Singapore, Ridge View Residential College; 28 September 2024, around 2130 hrs.

**Habitat:** Urban. Concrete high-rise building, in communal bathroom on the 4<sup>th</sup> level.

**Observer:** Choo Ruirong.

**Observation:** An adult female of about 3 cm body length was found freshly dead on the floor in front of a shower stall.

**Remarks:** Although it is believed to be of Southeast Asian origin, the harlequin cockroach is apparently not native to Singapore (Cristian C. Lucañas, personal communication). Because it is associated with humans, the species has been transported globally as a household pest and has established populations in some regions where it was introduced.

The harlequin cockroach was apparently first recorded in Singapore in 1915 (Hanitsch 1915, as *Stylopyga rhombifolia*). However, it seems to be uncommon, and has been sporadically recorded since in urban areas (see Yeo & Lim 2014). Harlequin cockroaches have small wings and are incapable of flight.

### Literature cited:

Hanitsch R (1915) Malayan Blattidae. Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. 69: 17–178.

Yeo WL & Lim KKP (2014) Harlequin cockroach *Neostylopyga rhombifolia* at Kovan. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 61.

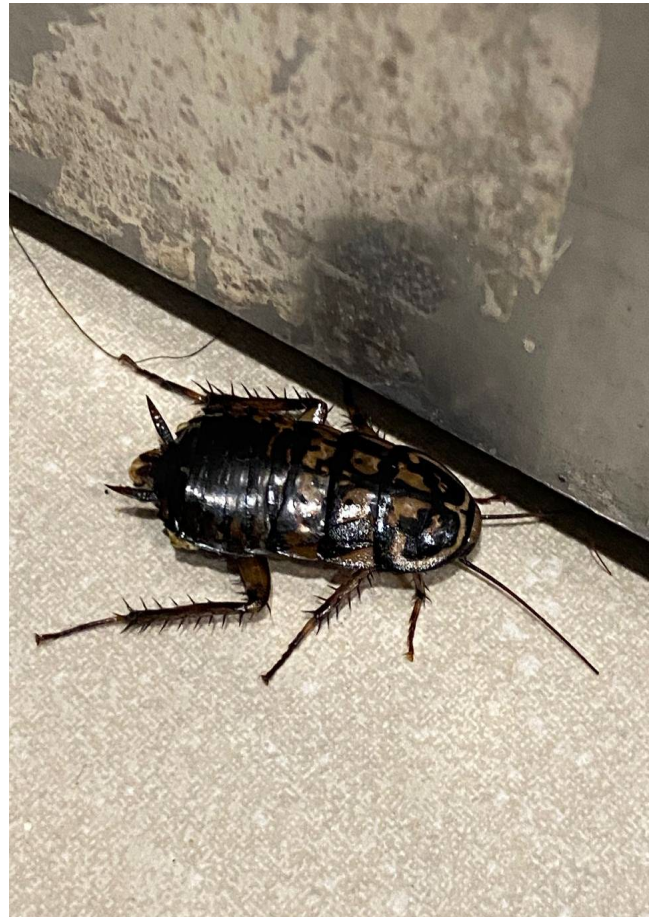


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of dead female *Neostylopyga rhombifolia* (Photograph by: Choo Ruirong).