

Biodiversity Record: Eight-spotted crab spider, *Platythomisus octomaculatus*, at Mandai

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Subject: Eight-spotted crab spider, *Platythomisus octomaculatus* (Arachnida: Araneae: Thomisidae).

Subject identified by: Leshon Lee.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Mandai Track 15; 15 December 2024; around 2022 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of young secondary forest.

Observers: Choo Ruirong, Lumin Ong Jun Xiang, Tay Jing Xuan, Leshon Lee, and Tan Si Min.

Observation: A female of approximately 35 mm (measured laterally across from the tip of one longest outstretched limb to the tip of the other) was spotted at rest and exposed on a leaf of a shrub at the waist level of the observers. Upon being disturbed, the subject put on an apparent threat display (Fig. 1) before retreating into her nest that was made by adhering two overlapping leaves with silk (Figs. 2, 3).



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the spider putting on a threat display at the entrance of her nest which was about 4 cm across (Photograph by: Tay Jing Xuan). Fig. 2. Lateral view of the spider retreated into its nest held by silk (Photograph by: Tay Jing Xuan). Fig. 3. Dorso-frontal view of the subject in threat display at the entrance of its shelter (Photograph by: Lumin Ong Jun Xiang).

Remarks: In Singapore, *Platythomisus octomaculatus* appears to be uncommon, and is classified as a ‘vulnerable’ species (Court & Koh, 2024) that is found in mangroves and disturbed wooded areas (Yeo, 2014; Koh et al., 2022). On iNaturalist, there is a recent record of this species in Singapore on 1 July 2023 along Jalan Ulu Sembawang (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/176788868>), which is in secondary forest away from the coast. The present record shows another example in a similar habitat.

Literature cited:

- Court & DJ Koh JKH (2024) Checklist of spider species with their category of threat status for Singapore. In Davison GWH, Gan JWM, Huang D, Hwang WS, Lum SKY & Yeo DCJ (eds.) The Singapore Red Data Book. Red Lists of Singapore Biodiversity. Third edition. National Parks Board, Singapore, pp. 282–283.
- Koh JKH, Court DJ, Ang CSP & Ng PYC (2022) A Photographic Guide to Singapore Spiders. National Parks Board, Singapore, ix + 774 pp.
- Yeo RKH (2014) Eight-spotted crab-spiders at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2014: 204.