

Biodiversity Record: New Singapore record of the stick insect, *Sadyattes annulatus*

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Subject: *Sadyattes annulatus* (Insecta: Phasmatodea: Phasmatidae: Platycraninae).

Subject identified by: Francis Seow Choen.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve; 8 April 2024; around 1017 hrs and 1540 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of primary forest.

Observers: Lim Yi He, Muhammad Khairuldin bin Aziz, Chan Pin Jia, and Sherry Hung.

Observation: A large stick insect that greatly resembled a broken twig, was found resting motionless about 40 cm above the ground, on a metal railing, at the side of a footpath, after rain. The subject displayed distinct bilateral symmetry, with its forelegs extended forward and the mid and hind legs gripping the underside of the railing (Figs. 1, 2). It was estimated to be 14 cm in body length, and about 21 cm long including the antennae. The individual, a male, apparently remained at the same location for it was seen again later in the day.

Remarks: Stick insects are notoriously difficult to detect in the wild due to their exceptional camouflage and typically arboreal habits. They are generally found high in the forest canopy, where they feed on young foliage (Bedford, 1978). The presence of the subject near the ground suggests that it could have been dislodged from the tree canopy by rain earlier in the morning.

Sadyattes annulata is herein reported for the first time in Singapore (see Seow-Choen, 2017; Seow-Choen, 2024). The species is otherwise known from Borneo and Sumatra (Bragg, 2001; Seow-Choen, 2025). Its presence in the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve raises intriguing biogeographical questions regarding its dispersal. Although we assume that the subject is an overlooked native, we cannot disregard the possibility that it was a recent arrival due to range expansion, or it could have been accidentally introduced with horticultural products, or perhaps an escaped pet. Further surveys and observations are needed to determine its population status, habitat preferences, host plants and feeding ecology in Singapore. This discovery underscores the importance of continuous biodiversity monitoring even in well-surveyed areas, as new records can still emerge.

Literature cited:

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Seow-Choen F (2017) A Taxonomic Guide to the Stick Insects of Singapore. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, ix+165 pp.

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Fig 1. Dorsal view of male *Sadyates annulatus* on the railing with head facing upwards. Inset: Ventral surface of the abdomen showing the green meso- and metafemora with a black apex, as well as the terminalia (Photographs by: Lim Yi He).



Fig 2. Lateral view of *Sadyttes annulatus* with head pointing upwards (Photograph by: Lim Yi He).