

## Biodiversity Record: A mantis nymph of the genus *Phyllothelys* at Upper Thomson

Kwang Ik Wong

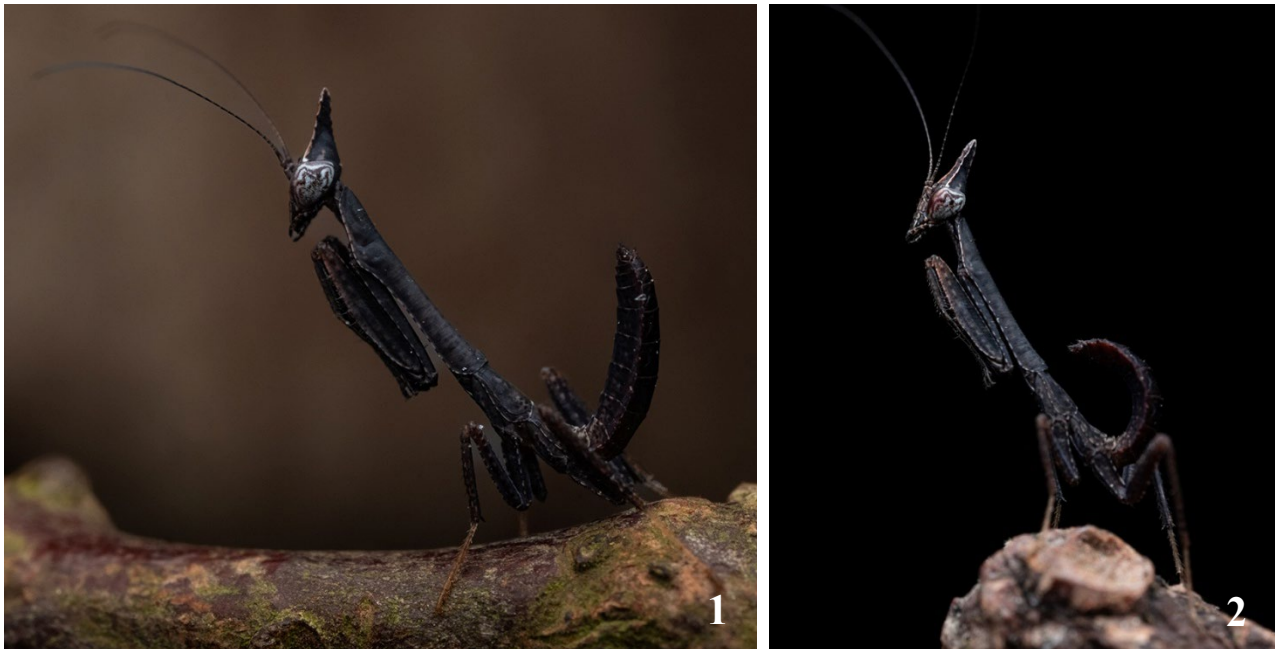
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**Subject:** Stick mantis, *Phyllothelys* sp. (Insecta: Mantodea: Hymenopodidae: Phyllothelyinae).

**Subject identified by:** Benedict Yeap.

**Location, date and time:** Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road; 10 January 2026; around 2230 hrs.



Figs. 1 & 2. In-situ lateral views of the subject (Photographs by: Kwang Ik Wong).

**Habitat:** Planted divider between park connector and road, adjacent to secondary forest. Edge of secondary forest. Among twigs and leaf litter around *Piper sarmentosum* plantings between the road and park connector. Cool (around 26° Celcius) and dry weather.

**Observers:** Kwang Ik Wong and Catherine Wong.

**Observation:** A nymph of about 4 mm total length was found walking along a fallen twig amongst wild pepper (*Piper sarmentosum*) plants. When approached by the observer, it stopped moving and struck an erect pose (Fig. 1) before swaying its body from side to side and moving away slowly.

**Remarks:** The genus *Phyllothelys* was apparently first recorded in Singapore by Foo et al. (2020) based on an adult photographed at Windsor Nature Park. As with that individual, the featured nymph cannot be identified to species without examination of genitalia, and tiny morphological characters on the pronotum, femora and lobes on the limbs (see Foo et al., 2020). The presence of a nymph indicates a breeding population in the Old Upper Thomson Road area.

### Literature cited:

Foo M, Kong AN & Kang ABH (2020) New Singapore record of a stick-like mantis of the genus *Phyllothelys*. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 235–236.