

Biodiversity Record: Three more owlflies at Yishun Central

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Subjects: Split-eyed owlfly, *Ascalaphus placidus* (Insecta: Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae: Ascalaphinae);
Split-eyed owlfly, *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* (Insecta: Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae: Ascalaphinae).

Subjects identified by: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, 90 Yishun Central, around Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; 1) 22 January 2026 around 1427 hrs; 2) 5 February 2026 around 0804 hrs; 3) 10 February 2026 around 1735 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland.

Observer: Simon Kee Mun Chan.

Observations: Three examples apparently representing two species were recorded on three separate occasions at one general location —

1) An undamaged example of *Ascalaphus placidus* of about 3.5 cm body length (Figs. 1 & 2) was observed perched on a leaf of a dwarf umbrella tree (*Schefflera arboricola*) along the sheltered walkway from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital towards 934 Yishun Central 1 (Fig. 3) on the afternoon of 22 January 2026. It remained at rest even when the phone camera was positioned centimetres from it.



Figs. 1–3. *Ascalaphus placidus* in first sighting. In-situ dorsal (Fig. 1) and lateral (Fig. 2) views of subject and general location (Fig. 3) (Photographs by: Simon Kee Mun Chan).

2) An undamaged individual of *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* of about 4 cm body length (Figs. 4 & 5) was observed perched on a blade of lallang (*Imperata cylindrica*) in between ornamental plants along the sheltered walkway from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital to 934 Yishun Central 1 (Fig. 6) on the morning of 5 February 2026.



Figs. 4–6. *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* in second sighting. In-situ lateral (Fig. 4) and dorsal (Fig. 5) views of subject and general location (Fig. 6) (Photographs by: Simon Kee Mun Chan).

3) An example of *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* of about 4 cm body length (Figs. 7 & 8) was found perched on a leaf of a spider lily (*Hymenocallis speciosa*) along the walkway to a prefabricated building (Fig. 9) on the late afternoon of 10 February 2026.



Figs. 7–9. *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* in third sighting. In-situ dorsal (Fig. 7) and lateral (Fig. 8) views of subject and general location (Fig. 9) (Photographs by: Simon Kee Mun Chan).

Remarks: Including the present records, the author has, between 31 July 2025 and 10 February 2026 (in under 7 months), observed six individual split-eyed owlflies at Yishun Central. Three were identified as *Ascalaphus placidus* (see Chan 2025a, 2025b; Foo & Shivaram, 2025), the other three as *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* (see Chan, 2025b). They are all assumed to be different individuals. Except for one *Ascalaphus placidus* that was encountered inside a building (Chan, 2025a), the rest were found perched on low vegetation outdoors (Chan, 2025b; present records). Owlflies are presumed to be rare in Singapore. The featured sightings suggest that these insects may not be uncommon if one keeps a keen eye out for them.

Literature cited:

Chan SKM (2025a) Biodiversity Record: The owlfly, *Ascalaphus* cf. *prothoracicus* at Yishun Central. Nature in Singapore, 18: e2025078. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2025-0078
 Chan SKM (2025b) Biodiversity Record: Two more owlflies at Yishun. Nature in Singapore, 18: e2025110. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2025-0110
 Foo M & Shivaram R (2025) Biodiversity Record: The owlfly, *Ascalaphus placidus*, at Yishun Central. Nature in Singapore, 18: e2025098. DOI: 10.26107/NIS-2025-0098