

Biodiversity Record: First record of a giant click beetle, *Oxynopterus* sp., in Singapore

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Subject: Giant click beetle, *Oxynopterus* sp. (Insecta: Coleoptera: Elateridae: Oxynopterini).

Subject identified by: Isaac Seow-En.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Upper Seletar, Mandai Road Track 7; 16 October 2022; around 2150 hrs.

Habitat: Edge of secondary forest. On a roadside kerb close to ground level.

Observers: Elaine Yi Ling Lui and Isaac Seow-En.

Observation: A reddish-brown female specimen measuring 76.9 × 26.5 mm (Figs. 1–4) was found on a roadside kerb close to the ground at the edge of the forest.

Remarks: The genus *Oxynopterus* Hope, 1842 has several of the largest click beetle species in the world as members. Click beetles are named for the clicking sound produced by the snapping of a specialised prosternal spine. This functions to startle potential predators, allowing these beetles to escape predation. All species of *Oxynopterus* are known from Southeast Asia (Suzuki, 2001), but none have been recorded in Singapore. Only one other species from the tribe Oxynopterini, *Campsosternus aureolus*, is listed on the website of The Biodiversity of Singapore (2022). *Oxynopterus* males have elaborate comb-like antennae compared to the simple, thread-like structures in females. Interestingly, their larvae are known to predate on termites (Kalshoven, 1955). The giant click beetle is amongst the largest coleopteran insects to be found in Singapore. This new record suggests that the taxon is either elusive or extremely rare in the country.

It is probable that the featured subject is *Oxynopterus auduoini*, a species that has a wide distribution throughout Borneo, Peninsular Malaysia, and Indonesia (Bosuang et al., 2017). However, we are unable to ascertain its specific identity because of the outward similarities between species, including *Oxynopterus harmandi*, known from Thailand, Laos and Vietnam (Suzuki, 2002), or *Oxynopterus mucronatus*, known from The Philippines and Java (Kalshoven, 1955).

We are grateful to Cheong Loong Fah (personal communication on 17 October 2022) for providing an unpublished record of a giant click beetle in Singapore. In 2002, a male example, presumably conspecific with the featured subject, was photographed at Upper Peirce Reservoir Park (Fig. 5).

Literature cited:

Bosuang S, Chung AYC & Chan CL (2017) A Guide to Beetles of Borneo. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, 244 pp.

Hope FW (1842) A monograph on the coleopterous family Phyllophoridae. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 10: 73–79.

Kalshoven LGE (1955) Additional note on the giant elaterid, *Oxynopterus mucronatus* Ol., a predator on termites in Java. Entomologische Berichten, 1: 273–278.

Suzuki W (2001) Notes on three species of the genus *Oxynopterus* (Coleoptera, Elateridae) from Southeast Asia, with description of a new species. Elytra, 29: 326–334.

Suzuki W (2002) Records of *Oxynopterus harmandi* (Coleoptera, Elateridae) from Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Elytra, 30: 189–190.

The Biodiversity of Singapore (2022) Oxynopterinae. <https://singapore.biodiversity.online/taxon/A-Arth-Hexa-Coleo-Elater-Oxynopterinae> (Accessed on 19 October 2022).



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of female *Oxynopterus* sp., in-situ, with human hand for size comparison. (Photograph by: Elaine Yi Ling Lui).
 Fig. 2. Dorsal view of *Oxynopterus* sp. against a vernier caliper. (Photograph by: Isaac Seow-En).



Fig. 3. Dorso-lateral view of *Oxynopterus* sp. female. Fig. 4. Dorso-frontal view of the same beetle. Note the reddish colouration under flash photography, and the thread-like antenna of the female. (Photographs by: Isaac Seow-En).



Fig. 5. *Oxynopterus* sp. male from Upper Peirce Reservoir Park in 2002, showing characteristic comb-like antennae. (Photograph by: unknown photographer).