

Biodiversity Record: Blue-nosed sprite damselfly at the Singapore Botanic Gardens

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Subject: Blue-nosed sprite, *Archibasis melanocyana* (Insecta: Odonata: Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae).

Subject identified by: Chloe Tan Yi Ting and Robin Ngiam.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Singapore Botanic Gardens, environs of National Biodiversity Centre; 24 November 2022; around 1142 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland.

Observers: Veron K. H. Pwa and Edwin Y. W. Tan.

Observation: One example of about 4 cm body length was first observed in flight. It landed in a sunspot on the leaf tip of a lemon-myrtle tree (*Backhousia citriodora*) where a photograph (Fig. 1) was obtained.

Remarks: In Singapore, the blue-nosed sprite is regarded as locally endangered and believed to be largely restricted to the forests of the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (CCNR), with only one other published record of a dead individual from the campus of the National University of Singapore at Kent Ridge (Ngiam & Ng, 2022).

The featured observation represents a new locality in Singapore for this rare damselfly that appears to be associated with swamp forest habitats. While the location of the source population is not known, it is suspected to be the artificial pond at the Nassim Gate roundabout or from a restored freshwater swamp habitat at Keppel Discovery Wetlands slightly further away from where the individual was photographed. There is also the possibility that the lone damselfly had strayed from the CCNR which has the only confirmed population in Singapore. This apparently young individual appeared to be in good condition.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Thio Hui Bing for relaying the photograph to relevant experts for species confirmation and inputs for this record.

Literature cited:

Ngiam R & Ng M (2022) A Photographic Field Guide to the Dragonflies & Damselflies of Singapore. John Beaufoy Publishing Limited, Oxford, England, 92 pp.



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Archibasis melanocyana*, in-situ. (Photograph by: Veron K. H. Pwa).