

蟲訊 Insect News



香港昆蟲學會通訊

Hong Kong Entomological Society Newsletter



Protocollyris ngaungakshani Wiesner, 2012 牛押山小葉虎甲

Photo by Vor YIU

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新發現 NEW FINDINGS**A new species of tiger beetle from Hong Kong — *Protocollyris ngaungakshani* Wiesner, 2012**

牛押山小葉虎甲

饒戈 Vor YIU

Email:yiuvor@hkentsoc.org

This is another new species of tiger beetle from Hong Kong since the description of *Probstia astoni* by Wiesner in 2010. All 4 types of this new species were collected on Ngau Ngak Shan. A paratype female is deposited in the Insect Museum of Tai Lung Experimental Farm. The new species is named after the locality it was collected from - Ngau Ngak Shan, which is a well vegetated hill famous for its high diversity of rare butterflies and beetles.

According to Wiesner (2012), the genus *Protocollyris* was represented in China by two species, *P. sauteri* (Horn, 1912) 索特小葉虎甲 from Taiwan and *P. grossepunctata* (Horn, 1935) 刻點小葉虎甲 from Jiangxi. The new species is distinguished from *P. sauteri* by its unicolorous labrum and less arcuated shape of the aedeagus and from *P. grossepunctata* by larger body size and the stouter shape of the aedeagus.

Head and pronotum are generally bluish black and elytra greenish black. Elytra are densely covered with deep punctures that are shallower only near apex. Male and female can be easily distinguished by the colour of legs. Male has yellowish brown tibia and tarsi, while females has its legs all black.

Adults of this slender and tiny tiger beetle were all found in May and June, on foliage of short shrubs. They are sensitive to slight disturbance. It is currently known only from Ngau Ngak Shan.



***Protocollyris ngaungakshani* Wiesner, 2012** 牛押山小葉虎甲
(The holotype male in its natural environment)

Photo by Vor Yiu

Reference

Wiesner Jürgen, 2012, Two new Tiger Beetle species from Asia (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae). *Mitt. internat. entomol.* Ver. 37 (1/2): 51-56.



Protocollyris ngaungakshani Wiesner, 2012 牛押山小葉虎甲
(The paratype females in their natural environment)

Photo by Vor Yiu

***Allotinus drumila* (Moore, 1866) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Miletinae, *Allotinus*) – a new photographic record for Hong Kong at Shing Mun Country Park**

Lim Yung YAM¹

1 - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Hong Kong. eddieyly@yahoo.com.hk

Introduction:

During a general survey on the 27th November 2010 in Shing Mun Country Park (Tai Mo Shan, Hong Kong), the author found and photographed one male specimen of a Miletinae species that has not been recorded in Hong Kong. The specimen was observed between 12:20 till 13:45 hrs (the butterfly was still resting while the author left the site after this time) and photographed (Figs. 1, 2 and 3) at a stream side sheltered by dense vegetation.

The photographs were shown to Professor Min WANG of China (via private message) who identified the butterfly as an *Allotinus drumila* (Moore, 1866) (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea, Lycaenidae, Miletinae, *Allotinus*).



Fig. 1 . *Allotinus drumila* in Shing Mun Country Park

Photo by Lim Yung YAM

Distribution and Behavior:

A. drumila is Indo-Burmese in distribution. It is submontane with a restricted distribution (Eliot, 1986) including China (KFBC, 2002) and India (Varshney, 1997). The larvae of *A. drumila* do not feed on plants (New, 1993).

This individual of *A. drumila* was observed to frequently bend its abdomen and overlap its forewings and hindwings together (Fig.3) when it felt free from danger. Sudden movement such as a leaf falling in close proximity made it alert and ready to take flight. The butterfly appeared to remain within shade during the observation period.

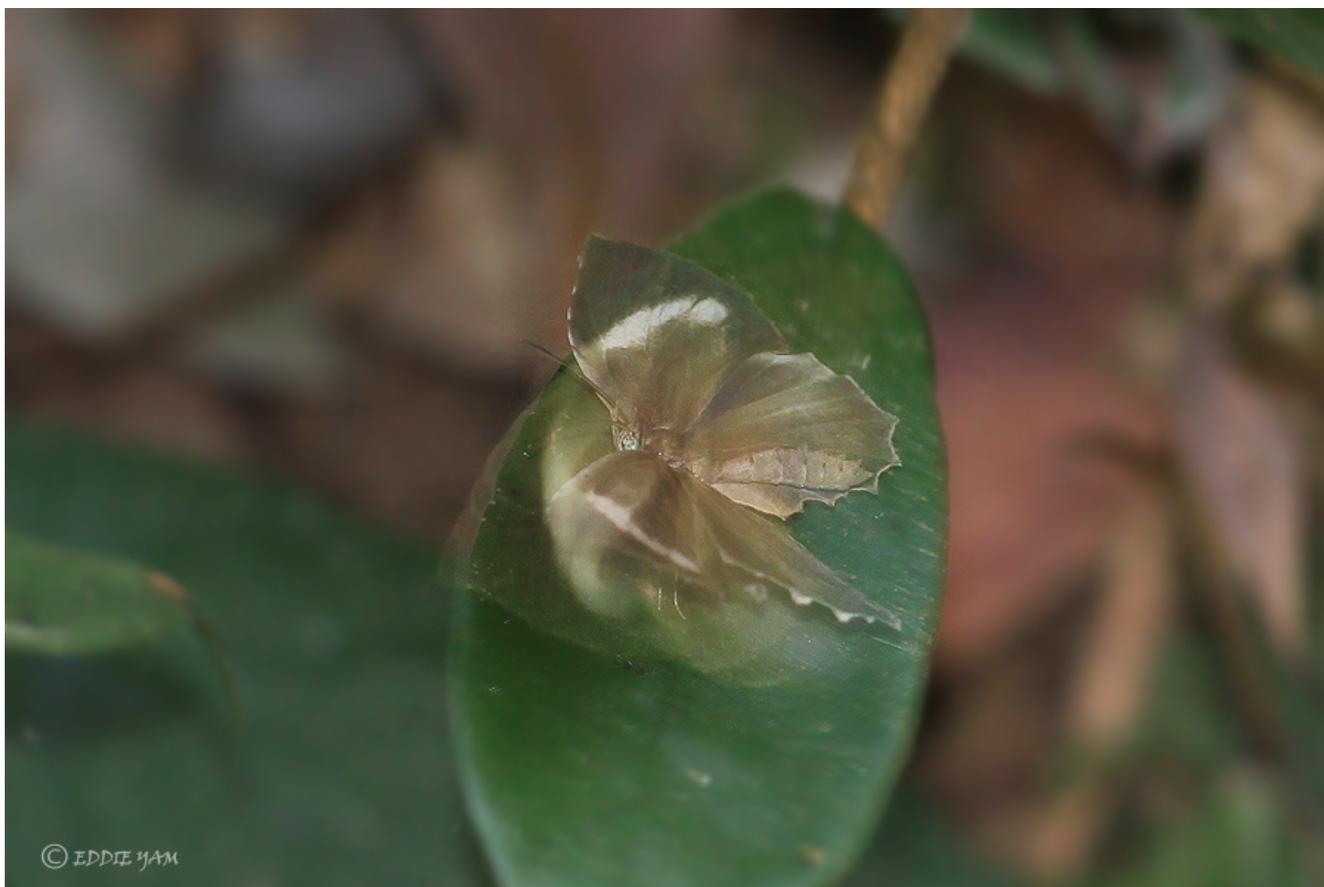


Fig. 2 A flying male *Allotinus drumila*

Photo by Lim Yung YAM

Morphological description :

Male (from Fauna of British India. Butterflies. Volume 2):

Upperside earthy brown; Forewing: costa at base and a broad outward discal streak from beyond apex of cell curved downwards towards but not reaching the tornal angle, dull white, diffuse at the edges ; apex and termen broadly very dark blackish-brown. Hind wing: costal margin above the subcostal vein and in a line with it up to the termen similarly very dark blackish-brown, the rest of the brown colour uniform without any white. Underside, fore wing: dull pale brown, costal margin and disc mottled with small catenulated spots of dark brown; cell with three short transverse bars of dark brown, the middle bar extended below the cell but not reaching the dorsum; a white curved discal band as on the upperside, but obscure, diffuse and ill-defined, merged with a pale area along the middle of the dorsum; termen broadly margined with dark rusty brown that has more or less of a mottled appearance. Hind wing: dull pale brown thickly mottled with catenulated spots and strigeo of dark rusty brown; catenulated, somewhat broken, transverse irregular bands of the latter colour cross the base, middle and apex of the cell; a similar short band is placed at right angles to the dorsal margin and curving slightly upwards terminates at vein 3. Antennae dark brown; head, thorax and abdomen rusty brown; beneath: the palpi, thorax and abdomen narrowly whitish.

Female (from Proc. Zool. Soc., 1865):

Upperside dull fuliginous white, exterior margins scalloped; forewing with the apex from the middle of the costa obliquely to below and the near of the exterior margins and thence retracing to posterior margin dark fuliginous

brown, with the tips of the veins on the costa brownish white; hindwing dark fuliginous brown along anterior margin, with paler fuliginous marginal lunules. Cilia pale buff-color. Antennae black. Body pale brown. Underside very pale fuliginous brown; fore wing with the disk broadly dull white; three short transverse brown bands within the cell; an irregularly margined curved brown submarginal band; along the costa and exterior margin numerous small brown speckles; hind wing with basal transverse pale-bordered marks; a small row of black-bordered dark brown pointed lunules proceeding from anal angle across the disk, with numerous brown speckles beneath it, and also on the anterior margin. Palpi and body beneath and legs pale brown.



Fig. 3 A relaxing *Allotinus drumila*

Photo by Lim Yung YAM

Acknowledgement:

The author would like to thank Mr. Vor YIU for significantly enriching the contents of this article with his review and comments, and Prof. Min WANG for his assistance in identifying the *Allotinus* species.

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The Dragonflies of Hong Kong

Graham REELS

Email: gtreels@gmail.com*The Dragonflies of Hong Kong*

Tam Tze-wai, Leung Ka-king, Boris S.P. Kwan, Karrie K.Y. Wu, Simon S.H. Tang, Ivy W.Y. So, Josephine C.Y. Cheng, Edward F.M. Yuen, Tsang Yu-man and Hui Wing-leung.

Published by Friends of the Country Parks. 368 pp.

The first book devoted to Hong Kong's odonate fauna was Keith Wilson's seminal work, *Hong Kong Dragonflies*, which was published in 1995, and listed 103 species from the territory. Wilson, in collaboration with the AFCD's recently-formed Dragonfly Working Group, then went on to write *Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Hong Kong*, first published in 2003, with a second edition following in 2004, by which time the Hong Kong list had risen to 112. This book was essentially a potted form of Wilson's earlier book, retaining, in most cases, the same keys, diagrams and photographs, along with a truncated text.

It is important to make a mental note of these facts, because a glance at the very long list of authors for the AFCD's new dragonfly book, *The Dragonflies of Hong Kong*, will reveal that Wilson's name is not among them, in spite of the fact that several of his diagrams from the 1995 book are reproduced, along with slightly modified versions (mainly to accommodate recent species discoveries) of his original keys, and verbatim passages of his text. I was a proof-reader, back in 1994, for Wilson's original book, and as I read the section on dragonfly life history in AFCD's new offering, I experienced an eerie sense of déjà vu. It is, word for word, the text written by Wilson for the 1995 book, with a handful of additional sentences thrown in. I am frankly astonished that AFCD has had the cheek to omit Wilson's name from their list of authors. An ungrateful slap in the face for the man who not only wrote the basic blueprint for AFCD's dragonfly books, but also gave the AFCD 'Dragonfly Working Group' its initial training, before leaving Hong Kong in 2003. Shame on you, AFCD. That is no way to treat a mentor. He deserves much more than the brief, downright cursory, acknowledgement that is given him.

Now, having got that complaint off of my chest, let me turn to the new book itself, which lists 116 species for Hong Kong. I have to say that it is an absolutely splendid field guide, one which builds on and considerably improves its predecessor, *Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Hong Kong*. The main improvements are in the revised species accounts. These benefit from many new, superb photographs of the adults (although some of Wilson's are retained), and the addition of measurement and flight period diagrams. Best of all, there is new, detailed information on the larva of almost every species, with useful photographs of final instars for most of them. This represents an extraordinary amount of work and is a quite remarkable achievement. The slightly larger format of the book allows these additions to be incorporated without making the pages too congested.

At HK\$120, the book is very modestly priced. I am very pleased to own a copy. All that is missing from it is Keith Wilson's name. Go on, AFCD, do the right thing: slip it quietly into that long list of authors when you release the second edition.

Christophe BARTHELEMY

Email:chb99@netvigator.com

In collaboration with Dr. Gavin Broad, Natural History Museum, London, I have recently published in the Journal of Hymenoptera Research a paper dealing with the biology of a cryptine wasp, *Hadrocryptus perforator*, Broad & Barthelemy 2011. (A new species of *Hadrocryptus* (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae, Cryptinae), with the first account of the biology for the genus. *JHR* Vol.24: 47-57). Not only this is the first description of this species, but it is also the first account on the biology of Cryptinae. The wasp was a parasite of various solitary Aculeata, notably *Xenorhynchium* sp. (Eumeninae), *Zethus* sp. (Eumeninae) and *Isodontia didon* (Sphecinae). See figures 1 to 4

In the HKES Bulletin I have recently published an exhaustive account of my several year of nest trapping solitary aculeates: *Nest Trapping, a simple method for gathering information on life histories of solitary bees and wasps. Bionomics of 21 species of solitary aculeate in Hong Kong. HKEB* Vol. 4(1): 3-37. This paper deals essentially with the nesting biology of the 21 species described.

I actively continue research in biology of solitary wasps with ever more nest traps placed in various locations in Hong Kong. I also encourage others to do the same since the method I use is relatively simple and yields interesting results. Refer to the introductory part of the above paper to understand the method.

Additionally to this I have placed in the same location a Malaise trap since 2006. This flight interception trap yields a great deal of data for aculeate wasps. While there was a declining trend in the number and diversity of species caught in the past years, 2011 showed a noticeable rebound of those two indicators, pointing perhaps to a cyclic variation in time of the number and diversity of species of aculeate wasps in a given environment.

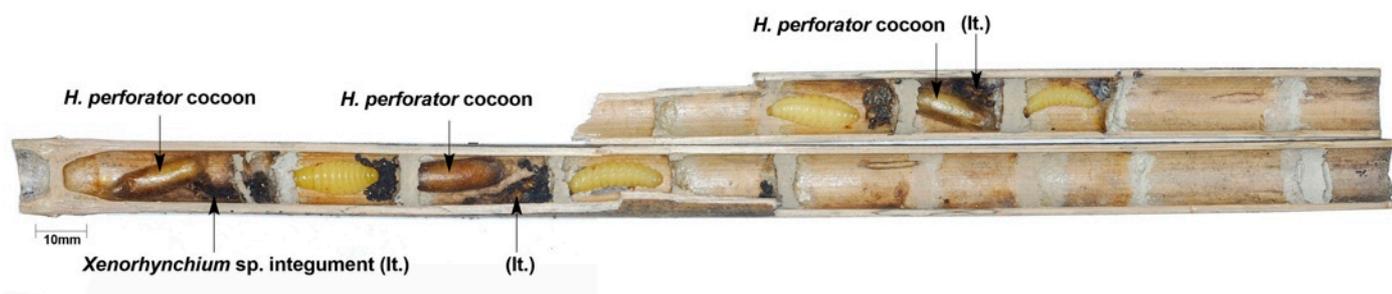


Fig. 1 Parasitised nest of *Xenorhynchium* sp.

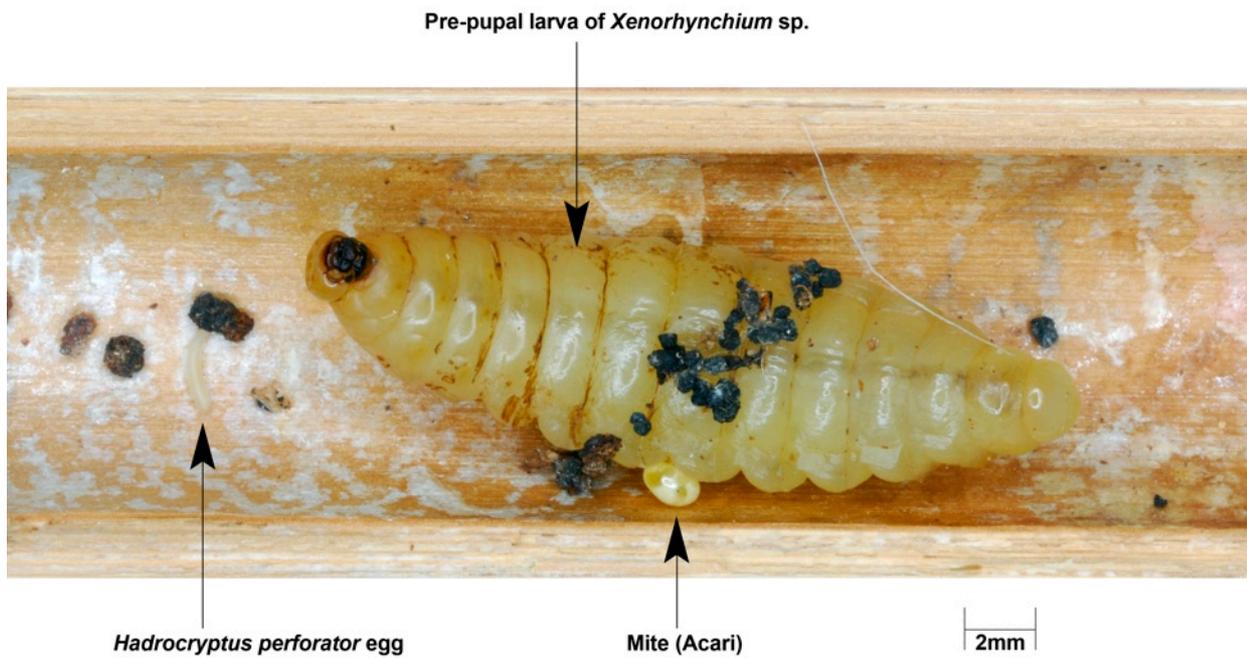


Fig. 2 Pre-pupal larva of host with parasite egg.

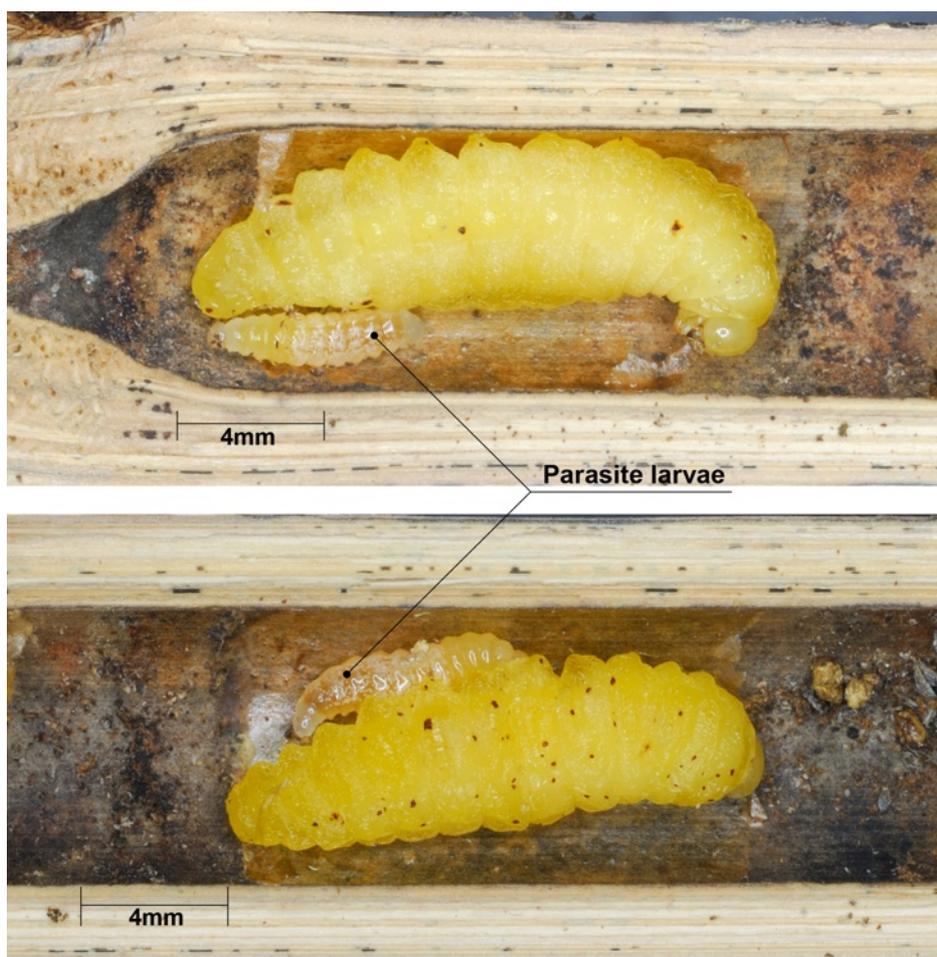


Fig. 3 Pre-pupa larvae of host with parasite larvae.



Fig. 4 *H. perforator* just emerging.

活動 ACTIVITIES

參加香港書展 Participating in the Hong Kong Book Fair

饒戈 Vor Yiu

Email:yiuvor@hkentsoc.org

香港昆蟲學會第一次參與在香港會議展覽中心舉行的《香港書展》，展覽日期為2012年7月18至24日。我們在書展期間售賣六本香港昆蟲學會出版的書籍，其中兩本是剛出版的新書，分別是《香港蝽類昆蟲圖鑑》及《香港螢火蟲》。

This is the first time Hong Kong Entomological Society participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair held in the Hong Kong Conventional and Exhibition Centre, from July 18 to July 24. Six books published by the Hong Kong Entomological Society were sold in the Book Fair, of which two were newly published - "A Photographic Guide to Hong Kong True Bugs" and "Fireflies of Hong Kong".



香港昆蟲學會在書展 Hong Kong Entomological Society at Hong Kong Book Fair

徵稿 CALL FOR ARTICLES

Contributions are invited for the 4th issue of the "INSECT NEWS", due for publication end of January 2013. We are looking for items corresponding to the following non-exclusive topics:

1. Accounts of interesting or unusual insect observations;
2. Entries for the Newsletter cover photograph;
3. Reviews of new books on insects of the bioregion (Hong Kong, Macau, tropical southern China, Indochina);
4. List of recent publications on insects of the bioregion;
5. News of insect research (academic or amateur) being conducted locally
6. Requests for information by individuals interested in particular insect groups.
7. Summaries of recent papers published by Society members in other journals;
8. Reports on various Society activities;
9. List of new Society members;
10. Reports on insect recording schemes;
11. etc.

INSECT NEWS is an online, biannual newsletter (January and July) published by the Hong Kong Entomological Society (HKES). It is open to contributions from members and non-members alike. Articles could be written in English or in Chinese accompanied by English summary. Please send your article and photos to: yuivor@hkentsoc.org

Editors

VOR YIU

JOHN X. Q. LEE