

China Sea are subject to unique stresses and offer unique opportunities to study the resilience of corals and coral communities. My previous work has mostly been about how corals respond to stress and the telltale signs that stress events leave in coral skeletons. I hope to continue that work and expand into investigating the behaviour of corals in sub-optimal environments. There are many potential collaborations here as well with researchers who are doing fine work teasing apart different components of the ecological web.

Nature is too complex for the broad ecological questions being addressed in this millennium to be undertaken by a researcher working alone. A willingness to collaborate and a broad experience base are, I believe, two of the most important characteristics of successful ecological researchers. Theoretical knowledge is fundamental to learning, but the more exposure one has to a diverse range of research, the easier it is to understand those ecological webs. The ability to think laterally is seldom apparent in researchers who never leave their comfort zone. In my experience, the more exposure a student has to real research during their degree, the easier it is for them to become a good researcher in the future. My advice to anyone who wants more out of university than just a pass degree and a job at McDonalds? Get out there, get qualified and volunteer!



## New *Planaeschna* record from Hong Kong (Odonata: Aeshnidae)

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During late October 2005 I undertook a crepuscular survey of dragonflies at Wu Kau Tang. In the 10-20 minute feeding frenzy which takes place just before dusk, I captured a total of seven aeshnid specimens using a net. Six of the seven specimens were identified as *Gynacantha japonica* Barteneff and the remaining specimen belongs to the genus *Planaeschna* McLachlan. It may represent an undescribed species. No previous species of *Planaeschna* has been recorded from Hong Kong.

The genus *Planaeschna* is mainly confined to Indo-China with outliers occurring in South China, Thailand, Burma, India (Assam) and Japan. Seven species of *Planaeschna* have been described from China, which are *P. celia* Wilson & Reels, 2001 (Hainan), *P. gressitti* Karube, 2002 (Guangdong),

*P. maolanensis* Zhou & Bao, 2002 (Guizhou), *P. risi* Asahina, 1964 (Japan & Taiwan), *P. shanxiensis* Zhu & Zhang (Shanxi), *P. suichangensis* Zhou & Wei, 1980 (Guangdong, Guangxi & Zhejiang), *P. taiwana* Asahina, 1951 (Taiwan). In addition, a further five species of *Planaeschna* have been described from Vietnam. A total of 17 species have been described to date with nine of these named in the last 10 years.

The Hong Kong female *Planaeschna* does not belong to *suichangensis*, which is the most widespread and abundant *Planaeschna* species recorded from Guangdong. Currently the female *gressitti* is unknown but the abdomen does not have yellow spots, adjacent to the transverse carina, which are linked to basal, ventral yellow spots to form a yellow median from S3-8. This ringed pattern is possessed by male *gressitti* (Karube, 2002) and in all other *Planaeschna* species the feature is exhibited by both males and females. The Hong Kong female does not have this feature so is most unlikely to belong to *gressitti*. Two new species of *Planaeschna* from central and north Guangdong await description but the Hong Kong female does not belong to either of these new species. It is closest to *risi* but further specimens are nevertheless required, especially a male, before a clear placement of the Hong Kong *Planaeschna* can be made. *Planaeschna risi* was recorded from Guangxi by Wilson (2005) but evaluation of further material from Guangxi and Guangdong indicates this material does not in fact belong to *risi*, which is endemic to Taiwan and the Ryukyu islands.

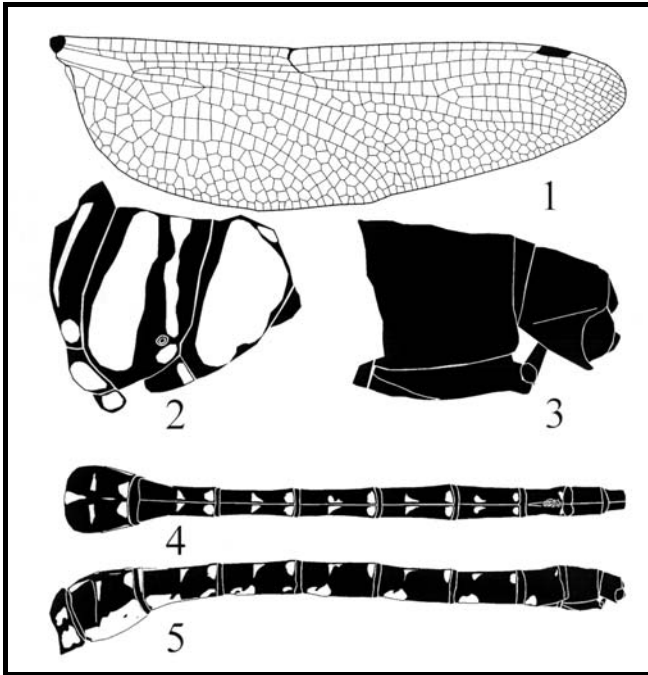
The Hong Kong female *Planaeschna* was collected over abandoned marshy agricultural land at San Uk Ha, Wu Kau Tang on the evening of 30 October 2005. *Planaeschna* larvae dwell in flowing streams usually in montane, forested areas. Most species are known from altitudes exceeding 500 m. Only one species, described from North Vietnam, *Planaeschna cucphuongensis* Karube, is known from lowland forest (Karube, 1999). The new *Planaeschna* species is likely to breed in montane forested tributary streams in the country park surrounding Wu Kau Tang but its larvae may utilize the tributaries or main stream flowing through the Wu Kau Tang basin i.e. the area covered by the Wu Kau Tang Outline Zoning Plan.

### Bibliography

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Figures 1-5 *Planaeschna* sp., Wu Kau Tang, Hong Kong. (1) Hindwing; (2) synthorax; (3) caudal segments 9-10, lateral [cerci and styles missing]; (4) abdomen segments 9-10, dorsal; (5) abdomen segments 1-10, lateral.

## *Sinthusa nasaka* (Horsfield) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae), a butterfly new to Hong Kong

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*Sinthusa* Moore, 1884, comprises about a dozen small species (Bascombe, 1999), distributed from India to Taiwan, including Sundaland, the Philippines and Sulawesi (Eliot, 1992). In the last decade, several new taxa in this genus, such as *S. zhejiangensis* Yoshino, 1995 and *S. menglaensis* (Wang, 1997) were discovered in Southern China, which may reflect the high diversity of the genus in this region. In Hong Kong, this genus has been only represented by a single species, *S. chandrana* (Bascombe, 1999; Lo & Hui, 2004).

In butterfly surveys conducted in Hong Kong during the summer of 2004, several female specimens of a suspected *Sinthusa* species were found (Fig. 1). The publication of the discovery has been delayed for almost two years because meaningful taxonomic comparison could not be done until a male specimen was collected in July 2005, and the identity of this lycaenid was then confirmed to be *S. nasaka*.

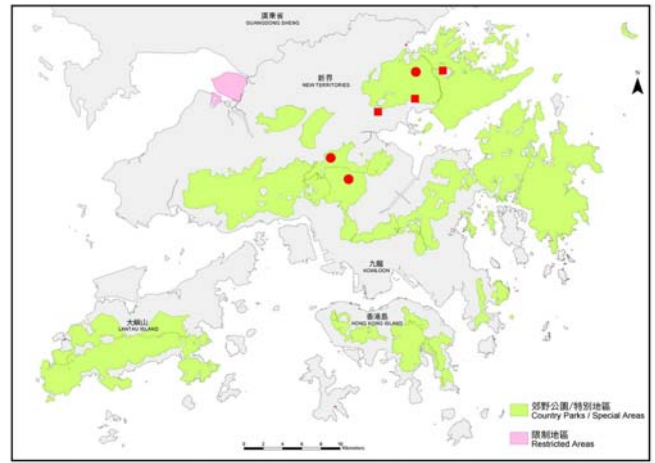


Fig.1. Distribution of *S. nasaka* ssp. in Hong Kong. (Circle denotes record with voucher specimen; square denotes photograph record from Yim, Chong, Yiu & Yiu).

It is worth noting that previously published and illustrated records of this species in China appear to be all female (Gu & Chen, 1999; Wang & Fan, 2002; Chou, 1994); the male *S. nasaka* of the race in China is thus illustrated and described here for the first time.

### Materials and Methods

Apart from materials found in Hong Kong, specimens of *S. nasaka amba* (Kirby, 1878) from the Malay Peninsula were used in this study for comparison. Voucher specimens will be deposited in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong (AFCD).

Comparative materials examined:

*Sinthusa nasaka amba* (Kirby, 1878)

1♀, Malaysia, Perak, May 2005; 1♂1♀, same loc., June 2005, coll. local collector (1♂ genitalia dissected: YFL Iy0007).

The genitalia of male specimens were prepared using the following procedures. The abdomen was first removed and placed in 10% NaOH under room temperature for 24 hrs to dissolve the soft tissue. It was then transferred to 70% ethanol and dissected under a stereomicroscope. The dissected genitalia were preserved in 70% ethanol and labelled properly for further study.

### Result

Having compared the male genitalia of specimens from Hong Kong and the Malay Peninsula, no major difference was found and their similarities reveal their conspecific relationship.

### Specimens examined

*Sinthusa nasaka* (Horsfield, 1829) ssp.

3♀, Pat Sin Leng Country Park, 200m, 22/23 June 2004, coll. W. K. Leung & W. L. Hui (AFCD); 1♀, same loc., 26 June 2004, coll. Y. F. Lo & W. L. Hui (AFCD); 1♀, Tai Mo Shan Country Park, 400m, 09 July 2004, coll. Y. F. Lo & W. L. Hui.