

Biodiversity Record: A yellow spotless ladybird, *Illeis koebelei*

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Subject: Yellow spotless ladybird, *Illeis koebelei* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Coccinellidae).

Subject identified by: Chan Sow-Yan and Lau Wing Lup.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Hougang Avenue 10; 21 September 2022, around 1019 hrs.

Habitat: Urban. On the sixth floor of a concrete high-rise residential building.

Observer: Lau Wing Lup.

Observation: An adult of about 3 mm (Figs. 1 & 2) was spotted motionless on the underside of a leaf of a cupid's shaving brush (*Emilia sonchifolia*) growing in a flower pot. The surface of the leaf was covered by a silvery white and powdery substance which is believed to be mildew, and on which the ladybird appeared to be feeding (Fig. 3).



Figs. 1–3. Dorsal views of the ladybird *Illeis koebelei*.

Fig. 1. Fronto-dorsal view.

Fig. 2. Latero-dorsal view of left side.

Fig. 3. Latero-dorsal view of right side. Note white mildew on the leaf which the ladybird seemed to be eating.

(Photographs by: Lau Wing Lup).

Remarks: Most ladybird beetles are predators of insects (Giorgi et al., 2009), but members of the genus *Illeis* are among a minority that eat fungi (mycophagous). About five species occur in south and east Asia and Oceania (Fürsch, 1990). *Illeis koebelei* has been recorded in the Philippines (Recueno-Adorada & Gapud, 1998), Japan (Takeuchi et al., 2000), China (Wu et al., 2011), and in Korea, where this species was found on 12 species of plants infected with

powdery mildew (Lee et al., 2015). Although it occurs in built-up areas, *Illeis koebeli* does not appear to be locally common. It was not recorded in two recent reports on urban ladybirds in Singapore (see Hwang & Yue, 2015; Ng, 2019).

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