

Washington, DC, USA. ²ViaFAUNA Estudos Ambientais, São Paulo, Brazil. ³Programa de Pós-graduação stricto sensu em Ciências Ambientais, Universidade do Estado de Mato Grosso, Cáceres, Brazil. ⁴World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC, USA. ⁵Instituto de Ciências Naturais, Humanas e Sociais, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Sinop, Brazil. ⁶Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, London, UK

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Rediscovery after 100 years: first confirmed sighting of the Gombak bent-winged firefly in Kuala Lumpur

The genus *Pteroptyx* is notable among firefly genera because of extensive research on its species. Certain species within the genus gather on mangrove trees, creating a bioluminescent display along intertidal rivers, making them iconic ecotourism spots. Ongoing research on firefly taxonomy has led to the division of *Pteroptyx* into three groups, with one group exclusively comprising species characterized by deflexed elytra, commonly referred to as bent-winged fireflies (Jusoh et al., 2018, *Zootaxa*, 4456, 1–71). Of the 14 bent-winged firefly species, nine inhabit mangrove ecosystems, but the habitats of the remaining five (*Pteroptyx decolor*, *Pteroptyx gombakia*, *Pteroptyx masatakai*, *Pteroptyx sulawesensis* and *Pteroptyx truncata*) are unclear, as these species were described solely based on museum specimens, with insufficient ecological data.

On 9 January 2025, when examining *Colophotia* firefly specimens collected during experiential learning events at Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur (Muharraran et al., 2024, *Oryx*, 58, 9), author WJT observed a male specimen that did not fit within the *Colophotia* genus, specifically lacking a median carina on ventrite 7. This specimen had short, flat, hairless incurving lobes along the posterior margin of the ventrite. Further examination revealed a metafemoral comb on the third leg, deflexed elytra, and a short, narrow postero-lateral projection, shorter than the emarginated median posterior projection. These morphological characteristics confirmed the specimen as *P. gombakia*, the Gombak bent-winged firefly, originally described by Ballantyne in 2015 based on a single specimen collected in the Gombak Valley, Kuala Lumpur, in 1921.

This is the first confirmed sighting of a live Gombak bent-winged firefly in a century. It is also the first record of the species in Bukit Kiara and the first known occurrence outside mangrove habitats. Currently, it remains uncertain whether this species exhibits congregating behaviour, and the limited number of collections implies it may be solitary.

This finding underscores the need for regular species monitoring, particularly given the threatened status of the Bukit Kiara habitat amid urban development. The discovery increases the known firefly species count in Bukit Kiara from eight to nine, emphasizing the critical role insect collections play in documenting species distributions and supporting conservation. We recommend further field studies to support a national Red List assessment for fireflies in Malaysia.

We thank Friends of Bukit Kiara and Jabatan Landskap Negara for granting access to the study site, and the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for funding this research (FRGS/1/2023/WAB11/MUSM/02/1). MyABS permit (320809) was obtained for specimen collection.

WEI JACK TAN¹  and WAN FARIDAH AKMAL JUSOH^{1,2}  ([wanf.ajusoh@monash.edu](mailto:ajusoh@monash.edu))

¹School of Science, Monash University Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia. ²IUCN Species Survival Commission Firefly Specialist Group

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New threat to the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, India

Namdapha Tiger Reserve in the north-east Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh is the only stronghold of the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron *Ardea insignis*, of which 8–10 individuals remain in India. The Reserve is the heron's only known breeding location in the country (Mondal & Maheswaran, 2014, *BirdingASIA*, 21, 13–17) and may be a place from where the birds disperse to nearby localities in search of new territories (Reddy et al., 2021, *Indian Birds* 17, 115–118).

From late 2024 onwards, there has been an increase in the number of local villagers collecting stink bugs *Coridius nepalensis* and *Coridius singhalanus* (Hemiptera: Dinidoridae), known locally as *Gandhi puk*, for consumption and sale. Local people have indicated they can sell the insects for USD 35–125 per kg, depending upon the variety. This potential income has motivated more people to collect the bugs, and this increased anthropogenic disturbance is causing white-bellied herons to desert their foraging grounds.

On a visit to Namdapha during 4–16 January 2025, as part of our research project on the white-bellied heron, supported by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, we traversed the majority of the Noa-Dihing and Namdapha Rivers within the Reserve, but saw no white-bellied herons. We have sighted herons along these river stretches on all previous trips in the last 20 years. We were surprised to find instead groups of 3–4 people per km turning boulders in search of stink bugs.