

REPORT ON EVENING NATURE WALK IN TAI PO KAU

GUIDED BY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER AND ECOTOUR GUIDE SAM YUE
([fb.com/samyuephoto](https://www.facebook.com/samyuephoto))

Nine Members and one Guest enjoyed a pleasant night-walk in the warm evening air on Saturday 23 September in Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, one of the oldest and most bio-diverse reserves in Hong Kong. We saw a variety of frogs, including many common Asian toads, which have poison glands behind their eyes; cute brown tree frogs staring down at us from the canopy; a massive green cascade frog, which has a vibrant green back; and paddy frogs, known to occur in grasslands and paddies.



Common Asian toads (aka toad-in-the-hole to frivolous members)



Brown tree frog



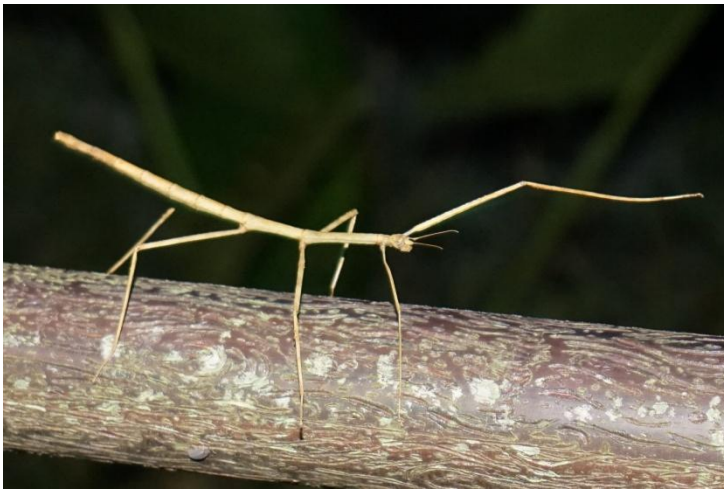
Green cascade frog (look carefully at his back!)

We also saw a multitude of invertebrates, including huntsman spiders of various sizes (it seemed each one we saw was bigger than the last, and no that's not a fisherman's tale)



Both are Huntsman spiders but different species. These spiders do not spin webs, but “hunt” their prey.

.....moths, a giant stick insect hurrying along a railing, plant hopper nymphs (which look like white fluff), and some beautifully camouflaged katydid.



Stick insect on a mission



Plant hopper nymphs



People often wonder where birds go at night; well we saw several peacefully sleeping up in the trees, including a spotted-neck dove, a magpie robin and a pair of white-eyes. Also spied were some changeable lizards – so named because the male changes its head and neck colour from brown to red when mating – and a couple of rats busy among the bamboo.

Young changeable lizard

Though everyone was calling for a snake, the grand finale didn't come until the end. Just before we headed home, we came across a gorgeous sleeping mock viper – it is non-venomous, but it has a triangular head and coils its body just like a viper.



This experience was a first for several in the group, but many were keen to repeat it on another occasion. It was certainly an eye-opener as to just how much wildlife there is out in our countryside at night time. The group gave a hearty vote of thanks to Sam!



With thanks for main text by Sam Yue (additions by Jan Campbell) and for wildlife photos by Dave Clarke and Allen Lee and group photo by Sam Yue.