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*Ankylopterix* sp., Semenyih, Selangor, Malaysia (forest)





**The genus *Ankylopteryx* Brauer, 1864 (Neuroptera Chrysopidae).** In 1864, Brauer established the new genus *Ankylopteryx* for five species of green lacewings from Mozambique, India, China, Sumatra and Ceylon (i.e. Sri Lanka), furthermore he described three new ones from Nicobare Islands, Ambon Island (Moluccas), and Van Diemens Land (i.e. Tasmania), already reflecting the currently known distribution of the genus, which shows a continuous presence in the Palaetropics from Africa (South of Sahara), Madagascar, Arabian Peninsula, Islands of Indian Ocean, India, South China, Ryukyu Islands, Indonesia, Australia, New Hebrides. About 50 species are known but many others are surely waiting for description because this interesting, large, genus needs to be revised. Brauer named the genus after the curved costa (the external vein of the wings), deriving it from the Greek ἀγκυλος [ankylos] crooked, bent, curved, hooked and πτερον, πτερυξ [pteron, pteryx] wing. Manifest characters of the genus are the highly setose wings, forewings with very broad costal field, narrow hind wings, and, strangely, tarsi with black tips. Alive specimens show an unusual resting position, with the wings flattened and not folded in a roof-like position. Tjeder (1966, The Lace-wings of Southern Africa. 5. Family Chrysopidae. South African Animal Life. Vol. 12.) suggested that this peculiarity is probably due to the broad costal area. Presumably, the resting position, in connection with the broad and setose wings, allows to improve the adhesiveness to the large and smooth leaves of the tropical plants, on which these species find shelter. As far as is known, the adults are not predaceous and the larvae are trash-carrying, i.e. they cover themselves with debris, resembling small packets of fragments thanks to the large setose tubercles and long body hairs. *Ankylopteryx* species were cited as predators in crops and orchards, indeed applied studies suggest their potential role as biological control agents.

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*Ankylopteryx* sp. pl.: Up: Ulu Yam, Selangor, Malaysia (forest); middle: Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia (open area); down: Bentong, Pahang, Malaysia (montane Forest, about 830 m asl)

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