

Wallace's letter to his mother from Singapore, May 28, 1854:

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Singapore is very rich in beetles & before I leave I think I shall have a most beautiful collection - I will tell you how my day is now occupied. Get up at half past 5. Bath & coffee. Sit down to arrange & put away my insects of the day before, & set them safe out to dry. Charles mending nets, filling pincushions & getting ready for the day.

Breakfast at 8. Out to the jungle at 9. We have to walk up a steep hill to get to it & always arrive dripping with perspiration. Then we wander about till two or three generally returning with about 50 - 60 beetles, some very rare & beautiful. Bathe, change clothes & sit down to kill & pin insects. Charles d[itt]o. with his bugs & wasps, I do not trust him yet with beetles. Dinner at 4. Then work again till six. Coffee - Read - if very numerous work at insects till 8-9 then to bed - Adieu with love to all.