

Know your fellow (non-human) Singaporeans || Butterflies || Part 1/3

08 April 2015 || To: NUS Community

Although Singapore is heavily urbanized, we still have an amazing variety of wildlife on this island we call home. In collaboration with NUS students and researchers, we are launching a 3-part series to introduce some of Singapore's wildlife to you.

In this first installment, we talk about butterflies.

KNOW YOUR FELLOW (NON-HUMAN) SINGAPOREANS!



Common Tree Nymph
Idea stollii logani



Common Birdwing
Troides helena cerberus



Knight
Lebadea martha parkeri



Common Tiger
Danaus genutia genutia



Painted Jezebel
Delias hyparete metarete



Common Rose
Pachliopta aristolochiae asteris

Singapore has over 300 species of butterflies and unfortunately, another 100 species that already went extinct. They come in different shapes, sizes and of course, colours.

The best time to see butterflies is around noon on a sunny day. When it is damp and cold, butterflies find it difficult to fly and remain hidden in the foliage.

Some butterflies can be very picky eaters. Their young (i.e. the caterpillars) may feed only on the leaves of a particular plant, but as adults, they become less fussy and can happily drink nectar from any flower that produces enough of it.

WHO'S WORKING ON BUTTERFLIES IN NUS?

Associate Professor Antónia Monteiro at Yale-NUS College is studying the evolution of 'eyespots' on butterfly wings to test the idea that evolution, instead of being a gradual process, proceeds in big jumps.

Anuj Jain is a PhD student at the Applied Plant Ecology Laboratory in NUS and also the Chairperson of the Butterfly & Insect Group of Nature Society (Singapore). He works on the conservation of tropical butterflies and the restoration of their habitats.

GET INVOLVED!

There is currently a national campaign to vote for Singapore's National Butterfly. Voting ends on 30 Apr 2015. Voters of the winning butterfly are eligible for a lucky draw and stand to win a mystery prize. For more information on this voting campaign, visit the displays set up in NUS libraries or this website:

<http://www.nationalbutterfly.org.sg/>.