

Species of the Month 04/2016 || Oriental Whip Snake

25 April 2016 || TO NUS Community

NUS Students Against Violation of the Earth (SAVE) and the Office of Environmental Sustainability present “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest”, an initiative that aims to create awareness of the biodiversity that surrounds us in NUS. In each issue, we will be featuring a species that can be spotted or found in NUS to help us get to know them better. So, if you happen to be travelling around NUS between classes, remember to stop and look around your surroundings, for you may be surprised to come across some of the other inhabitants of NUS.

NUS SAVE
- presents -
CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST
Species of the Month
Issue #4: April 2016



Oriental Whip Snake
Ahaetulla prasina
Family Colubridae

Appearance

- Slender body with a broad but elegant head with small eyes
- Colouration usually fluorescent green that lets it blend into the leaves
- Juveniles can be light brown to yellowish green

Habitat

- Native to Singapore. Usually found chilling on the trees and bushes. Can also be found in urban gardens, coastal areas and even on NUS campus
- Well camouflaged as it looks like a green vine

Diet

- Feeds mainly on vertebrates like small nesting birds, lizards and frogs

Fun Facts

- They're a bunch of shy snakes and will slither away into the undergrowth when disturbed
- Stereoscopic vision allows them to judge distances more accurately to get a successful strike at its prey
- When they feel threatened, they'll extend their tongue out of their mouth

Photo by: Sumita Thiagarajan

If you encounter a snake:

- 1 Don't panic**
Most snakes are harmless if left alone! They pose little threat to us and thus, keep cool and keep a distance!
- 2 Keep pets and small children away**
The snakes will defend themselves if necessary!
- 3 Call the wildlife rescue**
They are not pests! They are part of native wildlife. Instead of calling a pest control company, call ACRES at their 24/7 hotline: 9783 7782.



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For more information and pictures on the Oriental Whip Snake and to check out the “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest” series, click on this link - www.tiny.cc/CiTR

Also, check out other sightings of NUS biodiversity on the Campus Creatures Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/campuscreatures/>

You can also join the community in spotting the flora and fauna in NUS by sharing your sightings with pictures on the Campus Creatures Facebook page and Instagram the photos with #NUSCiTR and #NUSbiodiversity.