

Species of the Month 08/2016 || Painted Jezebel butterfly


25 August 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 #8: August 2016




Painted Jezebel
Delias hyparete
Family Pieridae

 **Appearance**


- An attractive butterfly with a mix of red, yellow and white with black veins on the underside wings and white with black veins on the upperside wings.
- Both sexes of the species are similar in appearance with the female having more black-dusted veins.

 **Habitat**

Commonly found throughout Singapore, from nature reserves to urbanised areas, with one of its host plants, Mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe pentandra*), commonly found on many trees.

 **Diet**

The larvae feed on the leaves of the host plants whereas the adults feed on nectar of a variety of flowers.

 **Fun Facts**

- The Painted Jezebel was one of the six nominees for the Singapore's National Butterfly campaign with the Common Rose as the emerging winner.
- It was observed that the eggs took 4-5 days to hatch. The larvae, which underwent five moultings, took up to 20 days to pupate and 9 additional days to emerge as butterflies.
- The colouration of the larvae changes with each moulting, from faint yellow, yellowish brown to bright yellow.
- The mistletoe, which is a semi-parasitic plant, also serves as a host plant for another butterfly species - the Peacock Royal.

Photo by: Gina Goh

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For more information and pictures on the Painted Jezebel butterfly 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.