

Species of the Month 12/2016 || Sunda Pangolin


28 December 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 monthly issue, we will be featuring a species that can be spotted or found in NUS to let 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 #12: December 2016




Sunda Pangolin
Manis javanica
Family Manidae

 **Appearance**


- The sturdy scales on the pangolins are made of fused hair. When threatened, pangolins protect their soft underparts by curling into an armoured ball
- Pangolins are arboreal and use their long prehensile tails to climb trees where they reside in
- They lack teeth and eat by collecting prey using their long and sticky tongue that extends into an ants' nest which they expose by digging with their sharp claws

 **Habitat**

Sunda pangolins live in Southeast Asia and can be found in Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

 **Diet**

- Pangolins feed on ants and termites using their unique heads and mouths adapted for this specialised diet
- Ants' nests in trees are not protected from the pangolins as the latter is an adept climber

 **Fun Facts**

- Along with other pangolin species, the Sunda pangolin are heavily hunted and are critically endangered today
- Pangolins are hunted for their skins (leather goods), meat (consumption) and scales (traditional medicine)
- In Singapore, pangolins are mostly killed by vehicles when they cross roads and highways
- To spot a pangolin requires a lot of luck; they are mainly nocturnal and sleep in tree hollows during the day

Photo by: Ong Kah Jing

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For more information and pictures of the Sunda Pangolin 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.