

Know your fellow (non-human) Singaporeans || Giant Clams || Part 3/3

19 January 2016 || To: NUS Community

Although Singapore is heavily urbanised, we still can find an amazing variety of wildlife on this island we call home. In collaboration with NUS students and researchers, we are having a 3-part series to introduce to you some wildlife that can be found here in Singapore.

In this final installment, we talk about giant clams.

KNOW YOUR FELLOW (NON-HUMAN) SINGAPOREANS!



Fluted giant clam
Tridacna squamosa (40cm)

Boring giant clam
Tridacna crocea (15cm)

Horse's hoof clam
Hippopus hippopus (40cm)
(locally extinct)

Small giant clam
Tridacna maxima (35cm)

Giant clam
Tridacna gigas (100cm)
(locally extinct)

Giant clams are very long-lived animals in the wild. Some say they can live up to 100 years or more.

They can squirt an accurate jet of water at a target.

They have both male and female sexual organs when mature.

WHO'S WORKING ON THE GIANT CLAM IN NUS?

Dr Neo Mei Lin from the Tropical Marine Science Institute and Assistant Professor Peter Todd from the Department of Biological Science (DBS) are studying the ecological relationships between giant clams and their environment, as well as how they can be conserved and farmed.

Also from DBS, Professor Alex Ip studies the physiology of giant clams.

Professor Suresh Valiyaveetil from the Department of Chemistry studies how giant clams produce minerals to form their shells.

GET INVOLVED!

Explore the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (free entry for NUS students and staff) to look for our exhibits on giant clams and answer five short questions in our online quiz:

<https://goo.gl/uDMMhs>*

If you get all five questions correct, you stand a chance to win prizes that include a soft toy of an animal found in the region.

This quiz will close on 29 February 2016.

*This link only collects answers to the quiz on giant clams. To take part in the lucky draw, you will have to send an email separately to the organisers. More detailed instructions can be found in this link.