

Species of the Month 07/2016 || Changeable Lizard

25 July 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 #7: July 2016



Changeable Lizard
Calotes versicolor
Family Agamidae

 **Appearance**

- Also known as the Oriental Garden Lizard, its total length is around 37cm.
- It has a spiny crest along its back and there is a presence of small spines above the ear openings.
- Colour ranges from brownish to greyish yellow. However, during the mating season, the throat of the male becomes red and black.

 **Habitat**

Commonly found in shrubs and bushes, it can also scamper up tree trunks and lay amidst the branches. They inhabit forests and can even be found in parks and gardens.

 **Diet**

Its diet consists of insects and sometimes, small lizards. Occasionally, they may consume vegetable matter.

 **Fun Facts**

- Assumed to be introduced to Singapore in the 1980s, this species has successfully increased in numbers. It has even outcompeted the native lizard, the Green crested Lizard.
- Like its name suggests, its colour is variable. Displaying males can turn their heads bright red or orange with black throat. When not displaying, it fades to a dull grey. Also, females can become yellow and turn greyish-olive after mating.
- Changeable lizards do not drop off their tails and they are related to iguanas.

Photo by: Rachel Seah



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For more information and pictures on the Changeable Lizard 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.