

Species of the Month 06/2016 || Simpoh Air shrub


27 June 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 #6 June 2016




Simpoh Air
Dillenia suffruticosa
Family Dilleniaceae

 **Appearance**


The shrub can grow up to a height of 10m. It has large green glossy leaves and yellow flowers with 5 petals that bloom in the morning and last only for a day. When ripened, the bright red star-shaped fruit capsule splits open revealing the seeds.

 **Growth Habitat**

Common in Singapore. Mainly found in secondary forests and in swampy areas like mangroves and riversides. It has deep taproots to reach underground water sources.

 **Pollinators & Dispersers**

- Pollinated by carpenter bees via buzz pollination as well as other passing bees, beetles or flies.
- The seeds are dispersed by birds like the Yellow-vented Bulbuls and Pink-necked Green Pigeons which feed on the arils surrounding the seeds.

 **Fun Facts**

- The genus name *Dillenia* is named after 18th century German botanist Johann Jacob Dillen, while *suffruticosa* is derived from latin word *fruticosa* for shrub-like.
- *Dillenia suffruticosa* is the only plant known to have both one-day flowers and one-day fruits.
- The large, thick and waxy leaves of the *Dillenia suffruticosa* are also perfect for holding and wrapping food like rojak or tempeh, a kind of fermented soybean cake.

Photo by: Cherry Goh

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For more information and pictures on Simpoh Air 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.