

# Species of the Month 11/2016 || Laurel Clock Vine


28 November 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 #11: November 2016




**Laurel Clock Vine**  
*Thunbergia laurifolia*  
Family Acanthaceae

 **Appearance**


- The laurel clock vine appears as a hairless, woody vine with tuberous roots and climbs by twining stems
- Its leaves are oval-shaped, which narrow to a pointed tip, and grow in opposite pairs along its stem
- Their trumpet-shaped flowers start off as a short white tube with a yellowish throat and opens out 5 to 7 rounded, pale lavender-blue petals
- Its seed capsules contain 2 to 4 hemispherical seeds and are brown and elliptical in shape

 **Growth Habitat**

Native to India and Malaysia, but exotic in Singapore. This ornamental plant is grown in parks and gardens and used as vertical greenery

 **Pollinators & Dispersers**

- The laurel clock vine is pollinated by carpenter bees and is capable of reproducing from seeds
- The plant mainly reproduces vegetatively by resprouting from fragments of its stem or tuberous roots

 **Fun Facts**

- The leaves are known to have detoxification properties and are used as antidotes for poisons and treatment for drug addiction in countries such as Thailand
- The laurel clock vine is a potential invasive species as it grows fast and are long-living (perennial). In fact, this plant is considered a weed in Australia
- One of its petals would grow larger than the others

Photo by: Jun Yi



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For more information and pictures on the Laurel Clock Vine and to check out the “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest” series, click on this link - [www.tiny.cc/CiTR](http://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.