

## Species of the Month 04/2017 || Oleander Hawk-moth (Caterpillar)

28 April 2017 || 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 help us get to know them better. So, if you happen to be travelling around campus 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 #16: April 2017



Photo by: Kenneth Lee

### Oleander Hawk-moth (Caterpillar)

*Daphnis nerii*

Family Sphingidae

#### Appearance

- Grows to 7.5 to 8.5 cm in length
- Larvae are hatched bright yellow but become green and then brown as they get older
- Large blue and white eyespot near its head and a yellow 'horn' on its rear
- Distinct white band and black spiracles along the side of its body with a scattering of small white and bluish dots

#### Habitat

Mainly found in the southern Mediterranean region, North Africa and the Middle East. As a migratory species, they can also be found in Europe, and Asia near dry river beds, oases and warm hillsides with scattered oleander bushes.

#### Diet

- Caterpillars feed mainly on oleander and periwinkle leaves
- Adults feed on nectar of flowers such as petunia, jasmine and honeysuckle

#### Fun Facts

- It is believed that the caterpillars' consumption of oleander, which is a highly toxic plant, provides protection against many predators
- Caterpillars pupate in loose soil or among debris on the ground by spinning a loose yellow cocoon



Initiative by:



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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.