

Species of the Month 07/2017 || Money Shrew

8 August 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 #19: August 2017



Photo by: Sankar Ananthanarayanan

Money Shrew
Species: *Suncus murinus*
Family: Soricidae

 **Appearance**

- Often mistaken for a rat, the money shrew can be differentiated by its longer snout and smaller eyes than the former.
- Grey coat and short legs.
- The tail is long, thick and sparsely hairy.

 **Habitat**

Inhabits human settlement or around it. The shrew can be found in forests too.


 **Diet**

- Insectivorous; hence purposeful to humans as a natural pest exterminator.
- Scavenger; eats food thrown away by humans.
- As the shrew has a high metabolic rate and is nocturnal, they feed many times in the night.


 **Fun Facts**

- If you ever hear a noise akin to coins jingling, look around and you might find the money shrew.
- Keep a distance from the shrew, for it makes a shrill squeak and produces a strong odor when threatened. The odor is emitted from the musk gland on its throat and behind its ears. The secretion responsible for the odor is trapped by oil to sustain the smell.
- The mother and its offspring travel in a train-like manner as one clips its jaw on the tail of another in front, with the mother at the head like a steam locomotive. Google “shrew train” today to witness it yourself!

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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.