

## Species of the Month 01/2017 || Common Palm Civet

27 January 2017 || TO NUS Community

Thank you for your support of the “Campus in a Tropical Rainforest” initiative over the past year!

In 2017, NUS Students Against Violation of the Earth (SAVE) and the Office of Environmental Sustainability will continue with this initiative to bring you interesting facts on 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 #13: January 2017



**Common Palm Civet**  
*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*  
Family Viverridae

 **Appearance**

- The common palm civet has a slim dark greyish brown body with three distinct black stripes along its back, black spots on its sides and a long black tail with a white tip
- It has a long muzzle, small black ears and a black ‘mask’ over its pale face

 **Habitat**

Common palm civets live in forests, mangroves and parks. They prefer to stay in trees or other high places. Sometimes they live in urban areas, such as roof spaces, often travelling via telephone wires.

 **Diet**

- Palm civets are omnivorous, feeding on fruits, in particular mangoes, chiku, and rambutan, as well as insects and animals that they catch.

 **Fun Facts**

- Palm civets are also called Toddycats for their habit of stealing sap collected from palm trees which is used to brew an alcoholic drink ‘toddy’.
- ‘Kopi Luwak’ which is an expensive gourmet coffee made from coffee beans excreted by the civet cats has resulted in exploitation of these mammals. Hence, it is recommended not to support farmed Kopi Luwak trade.
- Civets are more closely related to mongooses than actual cats.
- Common palm civets are nocturnal. They are active after sunset and return to their rest sites before sunrise.

Photo by: Bryan Lim

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For more information and pictures of the Common Palm Civet 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.