

Species of the Month 03/2017 || Bird's-nest Fern

31 March 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 #15: March 2017






Photo by: Ng Shu Tian

Bird's-nest Fern


Asplenium nidus
Family Aspleniaceae

 **Appearance**


- Rosette of shiny light-green leaves erected in the shape of a bird's nest
- Large, spongy mass of roots can be seen beneath the leaves
- Sacs that produce spores are found in parallel rows on the underside of the leaves

 **Growth Habitat**

Found in Asia, Australia and Africa, they are commonly seen at roadsides, forests and mangrove trees in Singapore. Bird's-nest ferns grow at the base of large branches.



 **Ecology**

- Spores are produced by the fern and stored in the spore sacs
- Dispersed by the wind




 **Fun Facts**

- These ferns are epiphytes which means that they do not absorb any water or nutrients off the host tree.
- They have the ability to trap water in their sponge of roots and develop their own store of humus (organic matter found in soil).
- Dead leaves are held firmly in place as new leaves emerge, forming a huge spongy mass that are held together by the roots.

Initiative by:



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For more information and pictures of the Bird's-nest Fern 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.