

Species of the Month 10/2017 || Giant Shield Bug

27 November 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 #22: November 2017



Photo by: Spencer Yau

Giant Shield Bug

Species: *Pycnanum rubens*

Family: Tessaratomidae

Appearance

- As the name implies, the giant shield bug resembles a shield when viewed from the top and can grow to about 3 cm as an adult
- Orange and black bands line the lower edge of its body
- Shield bug nymphs look drastically different from the adults, being more rectangular in shape
- The giant shield bug changes colour from red to orange to green as it grows

Habitat

- It is very commonly found on the underside of the leaves of Simpho air (*Dillenia suffruticosa*)

Diet

- The giant shield bug feeds on plant sap using its mouthpart known as the rostrum, which is modified for piercing and sucking

Fun Facts

- The giant shield bug is also known as the stink bug as it releases an unpleasant smelling fluid produced by glands in the thorax when it is disturbed
- Some shield bugs are known to be agricultural pests, whereas others are eaten as human food. In Thailand, shield bugs are served roasted, or in curry and chilli paste. There are also packed dehydrated versions sold as snacks!

Initiative by:



Supported by:



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.