

Species of the Month 05/2018 || Cannonball Tree

30 May 2018 || 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 #28: MAY 2018







Photo by: Spencer Yau

Cannonball Tree

Species: *Couroupita guianensis*
Family: Lecythidaceae

 Appearance	 Habitat and Distribution	 Fun Facts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Couroupita guianensis</i> has a massive trunk with thick long stalks that bear strikingly coloured flowers, and enormous rounded greyish brown fruits that look like cannon balls● They can grow up to 35m high with leaves that are about 10 inches long and 4 inches wide● A single cannonball tree can bear 150 fruits and 1000 flowers● Its flowers are bisexual, fleshy, waxy, large and gives off a strong scent, especially at night and in the early morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Native to the rainforests of Central and South America and are commonly found in the tropics, including Singapore● They are planted as ornamental trees in Singapore Botanic Gardens● They can also be found on NUS Kent Ridge campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The flowers are used for worship by Hindus in Singapore● Extracts from several parts of the plant can be used to treat illnesses such as stomachache, skin conditions and wounds, toothache, inflammation and even the common cold● The fruits can grow up to 25 cm across and weigh several kilograms● When the fruits ripen and fall, the shell usually cracks open, releasing a foul and pungent smell which attracts animals that eat it and help to spread the seeds through their dung

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.