

Species of the Month 02/2019 || False Parasol Mushroom

05 March 2019 || 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.

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CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST SPECIES OF THE MONTH



Photo by: Cherry Goh

FALSE PARASOL MUSHROOM

Species: *Chlorophyllum Molybdites* | Family: Agaricaceae



APPEARANCE

Commonly seen as brown, the False Parasol Mushroom starts off as white when young and turns dark overtime. It has a conical or convex cap but will open into a broadly convex or even, flat cap. Its cap size ranges from 5 cm to 40 cm.

Initially, the False Parasol Mushroom has white or yellow gills. As it matures the gills turn grey and eventually to its easily identifiable green gills. A rare green spore print is created from the green gills. There is a distinct thick white-brown ring around the stem of the False Parasol Mushroom.



HABITAT

It is native to Singapore but is also found in other tropical regions. Similar to other mushrooms, the False Parasol Mushroom thrives in moist climates. Within NUS, they are sighted sprouting after heavy rainfall in locations such as the fields opposite UHall and FoS.

The False Parasol Mushroom can be observed growing individually, as part of partial or complete fairy rings. Fairy rings are commonly observed only within summer months. They are saprobic, meaning that they survive via dead or decaying matter.



FUN FACTS

This is the most frequently consumed poisonous mushroom in North America as its appearance (especially young False Parasol Mushroom) is often confused with two other edible mushroom types. Consumption of the False Parasol Mushroom can lead to gastrointestinal complications and diarrhoea but it will not lead to fatalities.

Initiative by:



@NUSSAVE



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Office of Environmental Sustainability



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.