

Species of the Month 3/2024 || Sunbeam Snake

1 March 2024 || TO NUS Community

Known for its highly iridescent scales, the Sunbeam snake is nevertheless shy and reclusive and spends most of its time under soil and leaf litter!

Read more about the  species below.

Let us know what species you would like to see featured by [voting for the next Species of the Month](#).

CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

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Photo by Tan Robbin

SUNBEAM SNAKE

Xenopeltis unicolor

APPEARANCE

- The Sunbeam Snake is named as such due to its extremely smooth scales, which are highly iridescent under strong light.
- Juveniles have a pale head or collar which disappears as they mature.

HABITAT

- The Sunbeam Snake can be found in a range of habitats but is found most commonly in parks and gardens.
- They have also been observed in secondary forests.

DIET

The Sunbeam Snake has been observed preying on a variety of animals, including frogs, lizards, and even snakes! As it is non-venomous, it kills using constriction and suffocation.

FUN FACT

This non-venomous snake spends most of its time under soil and leaf litter, using its flattened snout to burrow in search of prey.

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