

# INVASION

## INVADERS?

MACAQUES INTRUDE FLATS;  
COCKROACHES AS OUR INTIMATE "FRIENDS"

...

ARE THEY INVADING OUR LIVING?

**HOT NEWS FROM THE OVEN:  
FEATURE ON GM EX-CO**





# 01 content

## Invader?

According to wikipedia, invasion is a military offensive aggressively entering other territory, generally with the objective of either conquering, liberating or re-establishing control.

Small as cockroach, how can they travel from native Africa to all around the world?

Simple as primates, would they have the intension to conquer our land?

Are they invading us?

C1 Headline

02

## feature

File #1 : Cockroaches 06

File #2 : Macaques 13

## recommendations

Books x3 17

Hong Kong Geographic 20

## event

Superpass dinner 24

Ball Game Day 25

Inauguration 26

Upcoming 27

games 29

Sorry for the delay on the publication of e-magazine volume I

Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU

email: [elsshku@hkusua.hku.hk](mailto:elsshku@hkusua.hku.hk)

<http://web.hku.hk/~elsshku>

Special coverage: On November 20, 2008, 7 invaders succeeded in occupying the fifth cabinet of the Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU. It is evident from credible source that the group of 7 established the GREEN MESSENGER (abbr.: GM)

and has made comprehensive plans for intrusion in the year 2008-2009



### **Chief Strategy**

- to gather the inhabitants of the Blue Planet with common interests in ecological and environmental sciences;
- to foster Blue Planet inhabitants' appreciation of nature

### **Internal Strategy**

- to promote the study of ecological and environmental sciences among Blue Planet inhabitant in HKU;
- to foster the sense of belonging towards the invading allies

### **External Strategy**

- to call for awareness of conserving the Blue Planet





# 03

# chairlady



Choi Wing Yi  
Sylvia

nick: CHOI, Syl, Veggie, Sorpor

birthday: 89.1.15

horoscope: Capricorn

Address: Sai Wan

Special interest: very spontaneous/anything special

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

haha laugh / bookworm

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

Having to stay up late

Favorites:

Sailing, Watching films in the cinema, Rehearsing for performances of any sort

Ideal life:

slower pace, got time to do sth I enjoy / develop new hobbies and NOT affecting health, got some more time for family & friends

What are you busying when typing this blog:

Just got back home from work and found out I need to hand in a piece of geography hw (because of Elaine) on Monday.

# *Tsuen Wan Ling*

## *Elaine*



nick: elaine / reasoning

birthday: 4-7-89

horoscope: wt do u think

Address: Tsuen Wan

Special interest: rub eyes

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

workaholic / worm / as thin as a Pretz (=□=)

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

go to bed late

Favorites:

mobile hobbies: ballgames hanging around in the

wild taking photos.....sessile hobbies: songs movies

books and my bed

Ideal life:

life with enough sleep and being away from my notebook

What are you busying when typing this blog:

typing my 1xxx wds geog assignment



Ng Wing Yi  
Moli



nick: moli\*mo sunsun\*

birthday: 12th Aug, 1989

horoscope: Leo

Address: shatin is the best >v<

Special interest: secret\*V\*

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

gluttonous..wormworm,,,violent person..Marshmallows

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

can't do anything+work slowly+daydreaming

Favorites:

read books&comics+watch films & tv drama & eat  
with friends and family + surf website about tourism  
and cooking + playing ball activities

Ideal life:

Secret

What are you busying when typing this blog:

japanese study essay + sci fest + e magazine-□-

# 06

# General

## secretary



*Fong Fong Wing*  
*Helen*

nick: Helen / HelenS / fei fong...

birthday: 26th May, 1989

horoscope: Gemini

Address: shatin=]

Special interest: Everytime I get pass a McDon, I'll have a Choco Sundae / More efficient when doing more than one thing at the same time =□=

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

ZZZ... others are quite diverse (I give it up =.=)

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

ZZZ

Favorites:

Himono-Onna's stuff (reading bks / comics / movies / episodes), wierd guys' stuff (have a long travel, go online & collect Suzai and photos)

Ideal life:

Isolated from the rest of the world XD

What are you busying when typing this blog:

emm.... it makes me facebooking again....



# 07

# Financial

## secretary



*Leung Fui Shan*  
*Vivian*

nick: vivian/fei leung

birthday: 88.2.26

horoscope: Pisces

Address: shatin and LHT

Special interest: sleeping and eating until i can't see my feet!

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

soft undo and worm=O=

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

have to chat even have nth to say,

play facebook when very busy

Favorites:

listening to yoga lin, going to country side,

watching mammals esp cheetahs, sports

Ideal life:

living and working in east africa, tappy live

What are you busying when typing this blog:

e-magazine article and listen to my yoga lin!



# 08

# Academic

## secretary



So Lok Hin  
Ray

nick: so hin, ratio

birthday: 8.9.17

horoscope: virgo

Address: choi hung

Special interest: unbelievably many

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

ULO(unknown living object), book worm, roasted chicken wing, slow\*\*\*

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:

asking people to hang out but getting no replies\*\*\*

Favorites:

not most, but like very much: football, canoeing, badminton, tennis,\*\*\*, watching wildlife, star gazing, and wandering around unfamiliar places

Ideal life:

do as many field work as possible, going on holiday some of the time, having a nice family

What are you busying when typing this blog:

I can only do one thing at a time. But before this, I was making the bird list of today's birding in Lung Fu Shan. After this I would eat grapes, read biol0604 notes and prepare for the Mai Po birding trip.

Og

12&12



Wong Ching Yan  
Jane

nick: Wong Jing, Yan Yan Pig

birthday: 89.11.20

horoscope: Scorpio

Address: Home

Special interest: em...

Characteristics being tagged in facebook:

Sporty, people of violent

The thing that you hate but still do it daily:  
studying on the floor...slept within 2s...

Favorites:

eating, ball games, water sports, fishing(but  
afraid of fish...), video game(guitar hero!!)

Ideal life:

backpack!!

What are you busying when typing this blog:

e-magazine, songs



# 10 File # 1



Credit Mar Shek Shing

If a cockroach ever plays the game “first impression” commonly played in orientation camps, it is destined to get upset—“disgusting”, “filthy”, “frightening” must be people’s impression on it.

Cockroaches are literally everywhere. In a usual home, they are found in the kitchen, the toilet and even the bedroom, where people think is the most secure place. And if you are ever trying to find a cockroach, try midnight. Those dark little creatures, most active at midnight, pervade your home and get on your nerve—they

wander on your favourite sofa, excrete on your computer keyboard and taste your personal belongings—books, combs, tooth brushes and whatever. For every such intimate encounter, you might say: hey, get away from my life! And when you’re holding that slipper in mid-air, about to smash a cockroach with all your strength, do you realize that they are not native to Hong Kong? And a list of questions follows: how did they break into our lives in the first place? What makes them survive well and proliferate like crazy in a new environment? Are they all evil?

### The visitor from far away

Cockroaches come in the form of 3 most common species, namely,

*Periplaneta americana*  
(American Cockroach),

*Periplaneta australasiae*  
(Australian Cockroach) and

*Blattella germanica*  
(German Cockroach).

Scientific classification	
Kingdom :	Animalia
Phylum :	Arthropoda
Class :	Insecta
Subclass :	Pterygota
Infraclass :	Neoptera
Order :	Blattodea

The American Cockroach came from northern Africa and breeds widely in South America; the Australian Cockroach and the German Cockroach originated from Asia and the latter became very common in Russia. And thanks to convenient trade and travel in this modern world, they colonize every piece of land on Earth.

### Mr. Omnipotent

You can't escape from cockroaches even if you travel back in time: it was proved that— with evidence from a piece of cockroach fossil from a coal mine in eastern Ohio, USA— they appeared on Earth as long as 3 hundred million years ago.

Yes, given 300,000,000 years to reproduce, you can have a (great-)<sup>5,000,000</sup> grandchild. They appeared about 55 million years before dinosaurs. What's keeping them alive and healthy, without the slightest sign of extinction?

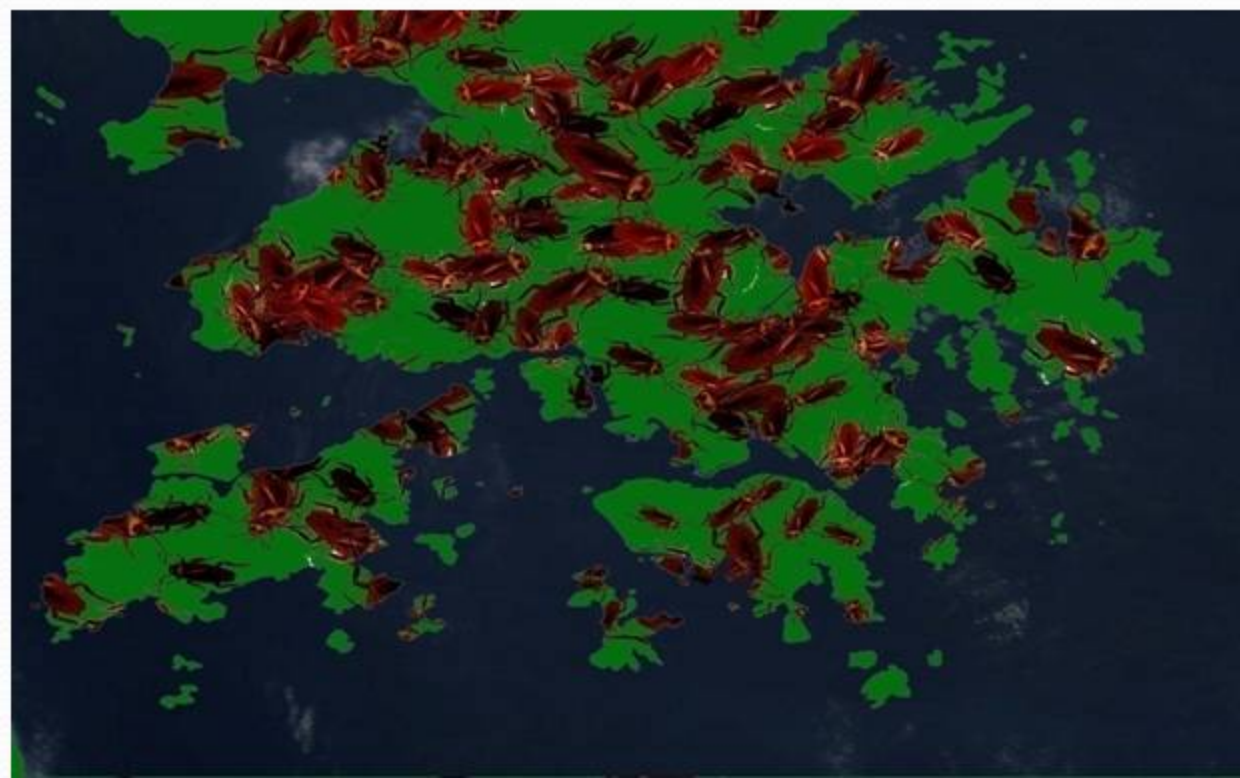


### 1. The Breeding Machine

Cockroaches reproduce like crazy. Each female, in its short lifespan of about a year, produces up to 8 egg capsules, called the ootheca, each with 30 to 40 eggs inside. That means a single female can have hundreds of offspring and the number soon turns astronomical after the breeding process repeats for a few times in a year.

### 2. The Immortal

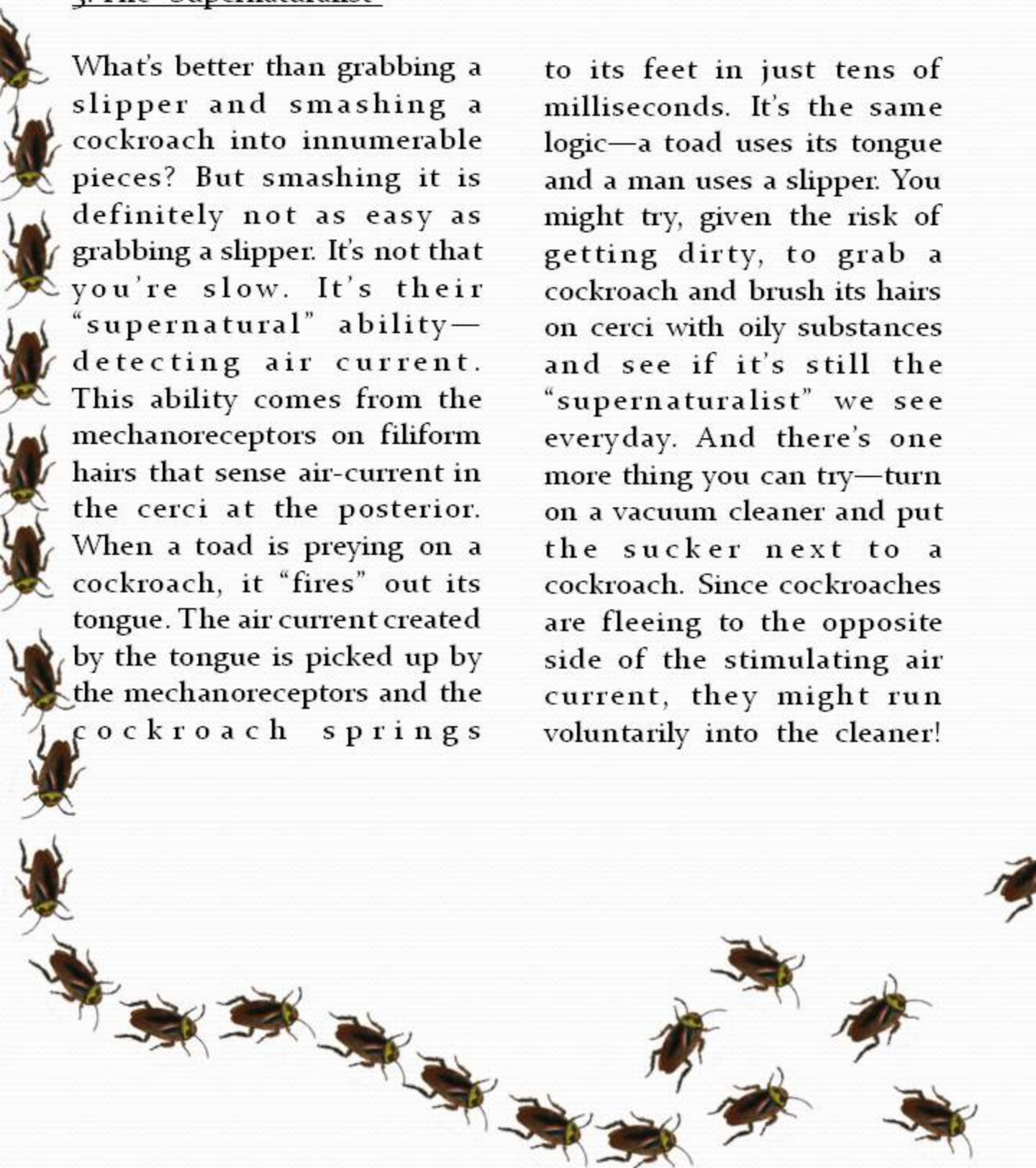
Like its Chinese nickname 小強, the cockroach is strong and tough. Without water alone, a cockroach can survive for a month. And a further cut of food still leaves it a 3-week lifetime. What's more, be prepared to live with them even after you've cut their heads off. They, with the central nervous system not in the head, survive for 9 days after being decapitated and continue to breed during the last moments of their lives. Breed without water, without food and without a head. Who's more immortal then a cockroach?



### 3. The “Supernaturalist”

What's better than grabbing a slipper and smashing a cockroach into innumerable pieces? But smashing it is definitely not as easy as grabbing a slipper. It's not that you're slow. It's their “supernatural” ability—detecting air current. This ability comes from the mechanoreceptors on filiform hairs that sense air-current in the cerci at the posterior. When a toad is preying on a cockroach, it “fires” out its tongue. The air current created by the tongue is picked up by the mechanoreceptors and the cockroach springs

to its feet in just tens of milliseconds. It's the same logic—a toad uses its tongue and a man uses a slipper. You might try, given the risk of getting dirty, to grab a cockroach and brush its hairs on cerci with oily substances and see if it's still the “supernaturalist” we see everyday. And there's one more thing you can try—turn on a vacuum cleaner and put the sucker next to a cockroach. Since cockroaches are fleeing to the opposite side of the stimulating air current, they might run voluntarily into the cleaner!





## The Filthy Love Clean?

It's not a joke that cockroaches clean themselves. To find food, water and be vigilant to enemies, it is of utmost importance for them to keep their antennae and legs clean all the time.

As an omnivore, a cockroach eats apparently all organic matters (with exception from members in the genus *Cryptocerus*, which feed on wood). Such things as sweet and fatty food, meat and dead bodies of insects are usual food for them. And you might start admiring them for how unchoosy eaters they are

- they even eat glue that are refined from proteins. Species in woodlands have leaf litter in their menu and clean the forest floor. Through their organic excretions, nutrients are recycled and they themselves are prey of various birds, amphibians and reptiles, as well as small vertebrates. You might say a cockroach is evil. But it turns out, that they are necessary evil. There's no room for a cleaner when there's nothing to clean. So the presence of cockroaches is a sign of dirtiness and that's when your home needs a big wash.



Credit Mar Shek Shing

## Whose Responsibility?

“Cockroaches are the worst pests and need an extermination!” But have we ever tried to stop being ego-centric and stand in a cockroach’s shoes? Few of the around 3 thousand species of cockroaches are city-dwellers. They existed well before modern human. And as a result of clearance of forests and other types of habitats to accommodate humans, a

special, man-made environment is created, which happens to suit cockroaches’ living style very much—food, water and hiding places are all readily available. And there are apparently no limitations on their growth other than human control since their natural predators simply can’t survive in our cities. It’s human intervention that is inviting the invasion of cockroaches, the Mr. Omnipotent.

### Facts about Cockroaches

The name “cockroach” came from common names used to call the insect in different places in Europe. One of the possible origins is the Spanish word “cucaracha” which is a type of Mexican dance and means stepping hard on pests. And the word “cockroach” was derived from this urge to step hard on the insect.



Credit Ray





Credit Elaine

## Keep an eye on your food!!

If you want to have a nice trip or a barbeque in Kam Shan or Lion Rock Country Park, think twice—macaques will snatch anything in your bag at any time! They are smart and nimble – and certainly gluttonous. They grab all plastics bags and food they can find from picnickers, and if they managed to sneak into your house, the food in your fridge would be wiped out in no

time. It is no news that macaques are snatching food from us. Consequently, macaques are no longer lovely but evil creatures we want to get rid of. But why, in the first place, do macaques seize food from us when they can obtain more than enough food in country parks? Does it have something to do with why they are so successful in breeding in Hong Kong?



In Hong Kong, 3 species of macaques have been recorded: they are rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), longtailed macaque (*Macaca Fascicularis*),

hybrids and Tibetan macaque (*Macaca thibetana*), of which the last individual in Hong Kong died in 1995.

### Poison Consumers?

How did macaques' population grow so much in Hong Kong? To tell the truth...They were introduced by us. When the Kowloon Reservoir was built in 1913, Strychnos plants (*Strychnos angustiflora*), a shrub, was found around the reservoir. The plant contains poisonous alkaloids, which is dangerous to humans and livestock.

However, it is the favourite(natural) food of macaques. A few macaques were released in the hope of eliminating these plants to prevent water poisoning. However, having a good supply of food and a good place to live in, their population started to grow, with about 2000 macaques in Hong Kong now.



Credit: Jin pan



## Special Characteristics

Macaques are frugivore-omnivores, they mainly eat forest plants like fruits, seeds and leaves. They are also opportunists – they eat anything they can find, including insects and aquatic organisms like crustaceans and mollusks. They have 2 cheek pouches in their cheeks, which can store food and let the delicacies be degusted afterwards. They also eat soil (geophagy), which is

believed to contain additional minerals and can neutralize the leaf toxin. Therefore, when you see them having a dirty mouth full of mud, don't think that they are having a famine!

Macaque is the most widely distributed primate among primates (except humans). They live in groups, in which the number of individuals varies from 8 to 200. 'Hierarchy' can be observed among them. The ranking of males are developed by forming alliance.

The most common means include apple-polishing and being the follower of the powerful, like sitting nearer to friends, and grooming for higher-rank macaques. Only the strongest, most gigantic, most aggressive one can be the 'King'. The 'King' is chosen from numerous fights. The chosen one has the privilege in getting food and mating, at the same time they also have to protect the group. The ranking of a new born female is decided by the ranking of its mother.





## The seed disperser

Everyone blames macaques for their disturbance and destruction of forest, but are they evil? Do they do nothing good? Actually each living organism, including the macaques, has its ecological niches. Their foraging in forest can facilitate pollination and dispersal of seeds and help increase the number of plants. Simultaneously they trim the plant parts and stimulate their growth. Still, the most destructive actions are hill fires and deforestation.



Credit: Jin pan

## Who's responsibility?

The well-protected country parks should have provided enough food for the macaques. The Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department also plant 10,000 trees every year for their consumption. But some Hong Kong people are too generous that they make the macaques gradually depend on human's feeding and lose their foraging ability. Some people even intentionally make the macaques angry before feeding them. Then, the macaques misunderstood that they have to be aggressive in order to get food. The consequence is what you can observe now: they break into our houses to get food and scare you out of your wits. It seems that they invade our homes and their behaviours threaten us, but such behaviours are in fact caused by we human beings over a period of time.



## Facts about Macaques

Recently some scientists discovered that male macaques with redder faces are more popular among females. Investigators showed 24 photos of males with different degree of redness to 6 females for the analysis of their behaviours. The result shows that females pay more attention to redder males and protrude their lips to show their



interest. Redder faces show that they have higher level of male sex hormones, which imply they have better immune system and genes. Absolutely, smart female would choose the strongest male for breeding. 98% of our genes are similar to that of the primates so this maybe the reason why ladies love to cosmeticize themselves red!

## reflection...

We are living in a world full of misery caused by the invasion of cockroaches, the trespass of macaques. We are the victim. It's unfair—why do we have to live with such filthy creatures?

That's what people THINK. Or, do they really think at all? Cockroaches and macaques are invading human environment, but, on the other hand, it's not incorrect to say that humans are invading natural environment, from which cockroaches and macaques originate. Will an egocentric person ever realize he is so?

Animals, like cockroaches and macaques, with the ultimate goals of surviving and reproducing, are not conscious of what bad they are doing to the environment as a whole. It follows, then, that there's no point blaming them altogether. But on the other hand, we humans, intellegent beings,

have a much wider vision and can distinguish between good and bad. Lacking ability is not sin. Sin is having the ability but using it in evil ways. What's the point of having advanced building and construction technologies when, we keep expanding the city endlessly? How good it is to develop high-tech industrial procedures when we discharge seas of sewage into streams and oceans?

Knowing the natural world is very much interlinked from within, it's illogical to think that we can create a whole realm exclusively for humans. Instead of blaming mindless animals and developing the deadliest pesticides to exterminate them, can we simply get deep into the root of the problem? It's not simple, but at least we should start changing our attitudes and, maybe make some changes.



# 《生機處處 — 鳥類生活點滴》



When learning bird watching, what to take note of other than identifying characteristics of different birds? Bingo! Birds' behaviour! Unlike bird ID guides, this book focuses on the interesting aspects of what birds do how they live.

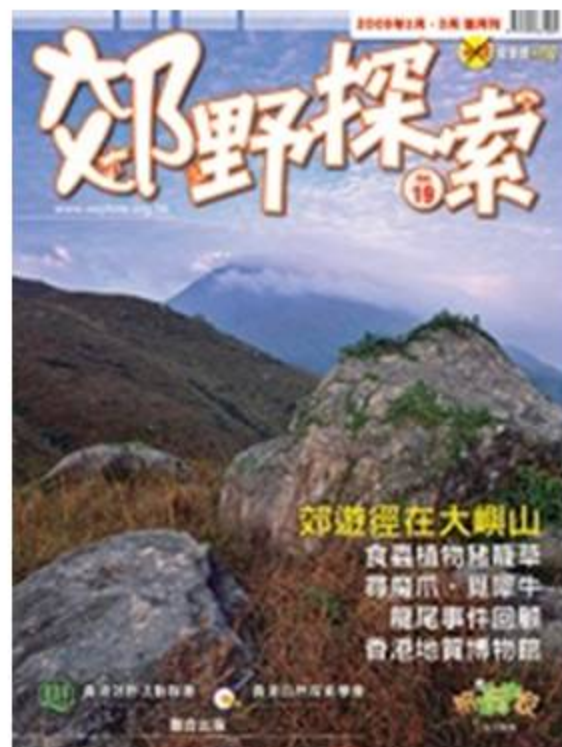
There are in total 40 stories, describing every aspects of wild bird life in Hong Kong, like foraging, parental care, mating, excretion and even "bathing" behaviour. This book surely would bring to readers the mysteries and joy of life through the amazing world of birds!

Author: Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Publisher: Wan Li Book

Price: HKD 52

## 《郊野探索 Vol. 19》

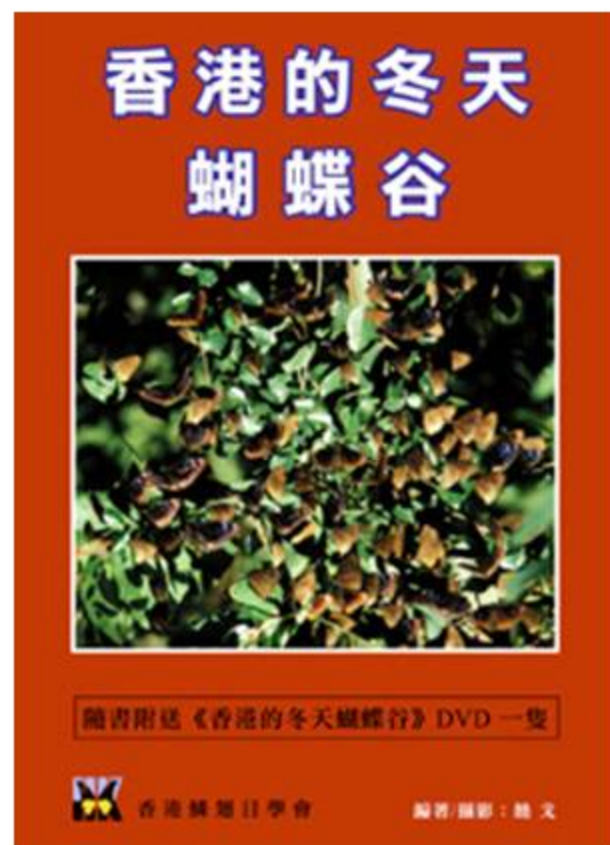


Jointly published by the Society of Hong Kong Nature Explorers and the Hong Kong Federation of Countryside Activities, this book is a very interesting and informative magazine, covering areas as natural sciences, humanities, historical events and updated information of various outdoor activities. The latest cover story "Hiking trails in Lantau" introduces 3 must-try trails in Lantau Island. In the featuring page of "Environmental Protection Issues", Ching Sum from HKwildlife.net wrote the review of the Lung Mei artificial beach event. And lots of other rich and attractive content, how can you afford to miss them?

Publisher: Society of Hong Kong Nature Explorers,  
Hong Kong Federation of Countryside Activities  
Price: Premium price at HKD 12 starting from Vol. 19  
(original price at HKD 18)



## 《香港冬天的蝴蝶谷》



Every winter, butterflies of the Danaidae subfamily gather around several sites in Hong Kong (Siu Lang Shui, Deep Water Bay, Fan Lau and Shek Pik Reservoir) in groups of tens of thousands, preparing for migration for a break from the unbearable cold. The author guides the readers on a journey through the mysterious migratory life of such butterflies with his observation in Siu Lang Shui and Fan Lau.

Author: Yiu Vor

Publisher: Hong Kong Lepidopterists' Society

Price: HKD\$58



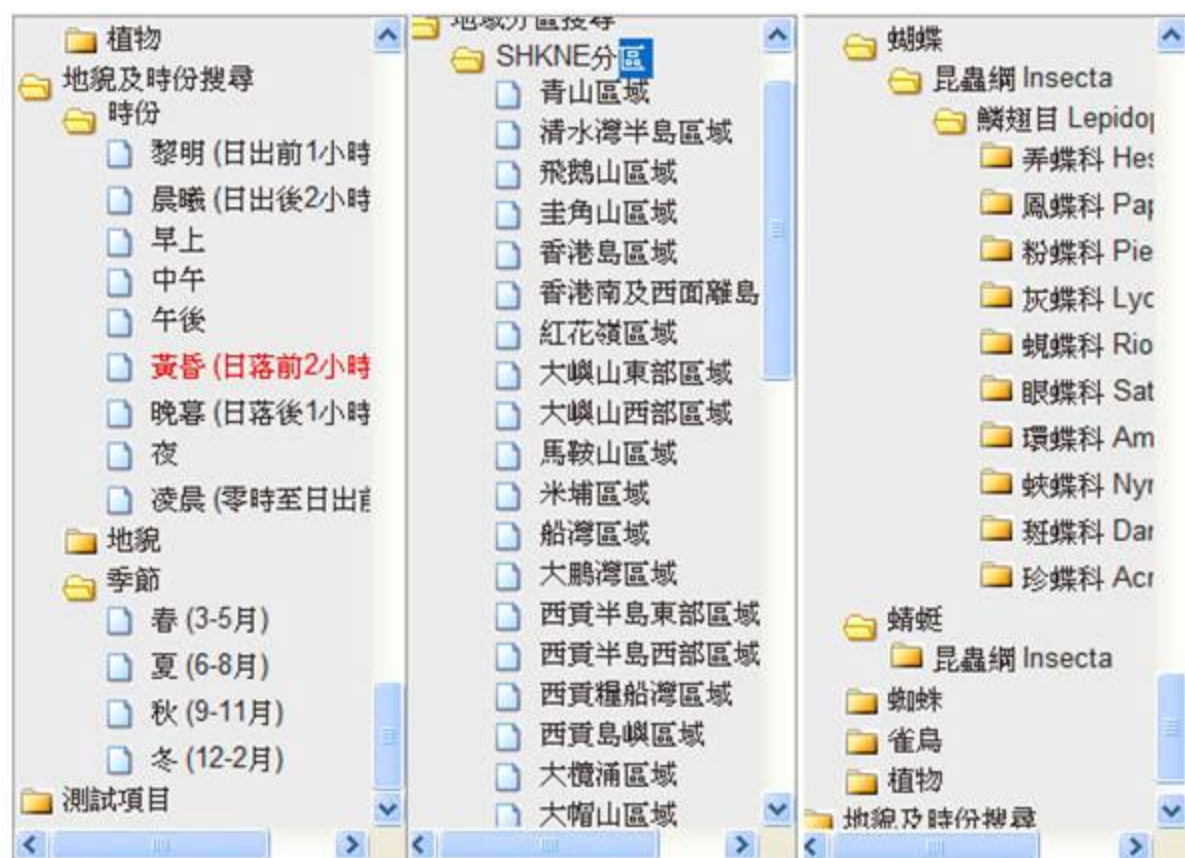
As an Enscian, you should be quite familiar with the name of Society of Hong Kong Nature Explorers(香港自然探索學會). This society gathers scholars with expertise and interest in the local natural environment, who observe and monitor local environment. After surveying and recording, they share their research results and experience in nature with the public through books and other kinds of publications.

“Geographic.hk”, subsidiary website of the SHKEN, is a comprehensive online database of high images and other information of Hong Kong's natural environment. The database is divided into 4 main parts including one on natural spectacles and 3 on biodiversity, each part managed by respective experts. Backed by information from



Google Earth and related literature, this website is sure to provide readers with comprehensive and organized information.

Besides, the database possesses a strong search engine: web-surfers can quickly and accurately search for information by categories including geographical distribution, landscape type, seasonal differences and systematics of organisms.



Searching by seasons, geographical distribution and organism classification.

Images are an important part of the database. Apart from high quality images, exif data are also available for reference. You're not going to miss this database if you like photography.

主圖片控制區



圖片說明：黑臉噪鵲  
學會分區：香港島區域  
拍攝者地點：香港動植物公園  
拍攝者名稱：Henry Lui  
本圖瀏覽人數：19

相同類別圖片	圖片資料	描述檔	Exif Data	Google Map
英文名稱	Masked Laughingthrush			
中文名稱	黑臉噪鵲			
綱	鳥綱 Aves			
目	雀形目 Passeriformes			
科	畫眉科 Timaliidae			
屬	Garrulax			
種	perspicillatus			
亞種	nil			
近似種	nil			
居留情況	留鳥			
主要生境	灌叢地區			
分佈				

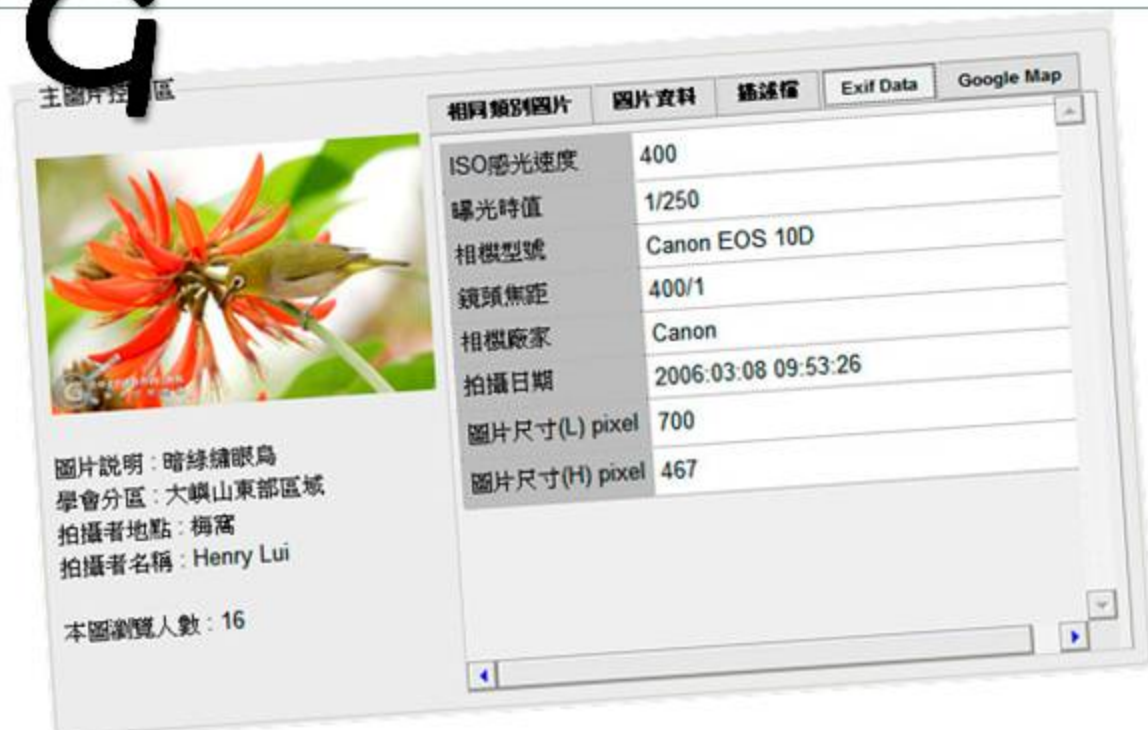
主圖片控制區



圖片說明：橙透翅毒蛾  
學會分區：西貢半島東部區域  
拍攝者地點：北潭涌  
拍攝者名稱：Maomorning  
本圖瀏覽人數：20

相同類別圖片	圖片資料	描述檔	Exif Data	Google Map
內部識別碼	in00469_lep_mao			
學會分區	西貢半島東部區域			
郊野公園及海岸公園	西貢東 Sai Kung East Country Park			
SSSI	NIL			
地貌	林地			
季節	冬 (12-2月)			
時份	中午			
圖片說明	橙透翅毒蛾			
圖片描述	糖果樣子~			
拍攝者名稱	Maomorning			
拍攝日期	02-2007			
拍攝地點				





Besides information on organism distribution and classification, the database also provide exif data and place of shooting in Google Map.

Apart from the database, the website regularly posts articles by the society members, which have diverse themes like photography, species features and experience sharing. Nature is full of never-ending unknowns and surprises. But thanks to the hard work of our seniors who are passionate about and make substantial contribution to our natural environment, the website is maturing and the database growing. Next time when you want to find some information about nature, don't forget to take a look at this website and be prepared for surprises!

# 30 PAST EVENT

## Superpass Dinner 2008, November, Shek Tong Tsui Cooked Food Centre

This our first ever event went with a bang and it ended with roars and giggly joy. Plus a lot of mess from Kelvin and Betty's birthday cakes and chasing one another with Chinese brushes.



And no one could miss the immense blessings filling up everywhere:: they write one another fai chun, some with great sense of humor; chopping of roasted pig ruthlessly



; many nice superpass prizes from our academic staff, like a small backpack, a desktop light, etc, and each one getting a superpass "triangles" from Green Messenger.







It didn't matter who were the experienced players or enthusiastic freshers, everyone seemingly enjoyed the night heaps. It was all about fun anyway, wasn't it?



Even Dr Rajan enjoyed the Ball Games Day, "I think this is very good. I love this a lot and I'll surely take part again! Next time I'd love to play the badminton!"

### Ball Games Day 2009 January

To commit yourself in this Ball Games Day totally, tell you what, you need to be both a brave warrior hitting the volleyball head-on, and a coward who flee from the dodgeballs from enemies. As easy as that.



Towards the end, Volleyball and Dodgeball Games evolved into some exciting games like rugby, dodgeball and touch rugby. Players were so concentrated in the Games they chose to ignore their groaning stomach and stayed for more.

### Inauguration Ceremony 2009

was one of our highlights of the year – it is when we officially come into positions and is a great opportunity to interact and form linkages with other green groups and organizations in Hong Kong.



Mr Samuel Hung from the HKDCS was one of our honorable guest speakers on the night. The atmosphere of the ceremony was friendly throughout and all who attended enjoyed their time, including our academic staff and representatives of other student societies.

Extra credits to our fabulous group of volunteers!  
Without them the Ceremony wouldn't be such a success!





TOUCH: Joint-U Wildlife Photo Competition

Nature, with its rich variety of life, is always full of fascinating scenes that touch our hearts. Have you thought of picking up your camera and capture these beautiful moments? Now here is a big chance! We, together with three other universities in H.K., is holding this Joint-U Wildlife Photo Competition. All postgraduate, undergraduate and associate degree students are welcome to join!

Now check out for more details at  
<http://jupc2009.blogspot.com/>

生動·心動 - 透過鏡頭, 捕捉自然  
 TOUCH - Capture what Natural World



34

ELSS chit-chat•fun (香港大學學生會理學會環境生命科學學會 Environmental Life Science Society, SS, HKUSU)  
ELSS 網頁: <http://web.hku.hk/~elsshku/>

# Soc forum

<http://www.hostingphpbb.com/forum/index.php?forum=successor&side=5efcd6e25ab594a6a83>

Want to share ecological news with others?

Click onto our forum: ELSS chit-chat • fun

with no 2<sup>nd</sup> thought!

Here gathers a group of friends with common interest!

You can even get to know students from different year!



# Soc web

<http://web.hku.hk/~elsshku>

HOME  
FUNCTIONS  
E-MAGAZINE  
FORUM  
ABOUT US

## GREEN MESSENGER

"Green" symbolizes the nature. A "messenger" is the one who delivers a message. "Green Messenger" therefore means an entity to deliver the message of conserving the nature and foster people to appreciate the beauty of nature.

We ex-co members, together with the Society, though with limited resources, would strive to bring forth this message.

Want to know who are we?  
Want to keep updated with our news?  
Dont hesitate to check out on our webpage!



