

Bird's nest fungus at Kent Ridge

Chua Keng Soon

nhmcks@nus.edu.sg

Subjects: Bird's nest fungus, *Cyathus striatus* (Agaricomycetes: Agaricales: Nidulariaceae).

Subjects identified by: Amy Choong.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, National University of Singapore Kent Ridge Campus, College Link; 19 January 2018; 0853 hrs.

Habitat: Urban buildings. In raised concrete planter on the roadside.

Observer: Chua Keng Soon.

Observation: A scattering of bird's nest fungus, *Cyathus striatus* (Huds.) Willd., was found in the shade of shrubs of Bougainvillea cultivated in the planter. The fungus were growing in several irregular clusters on wood chips used for mulching (see accompanying photograph).

Remarks: Although not uncommon, this unmistakable fungus is easily missed in the field due to its small size (7-10 mm in height and 6-8 mm in diameter) and cryptic colour. Each fruiting body consists of a cup-shaped 'nest' containing several egg-like units called peridioles that contain the spores (see Tham, 2011: 470). The 'nest' has a hairy and brown outer wall, and the inner wall is silvery and grooved or striated. It seems likely that, in this instance, the fungus was introduced into the country with the imported wood chips.

Reference: Tham F. Y., 2011. Stomach fungi. In: Ng, P. K. L., R. T. Corlett & H. T. W. Tan (eds.). *Singapore Biodiversity. An Encyclopedia of the Natural Environment and Sustainable Development*. Editions Didier Millet in association with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore. p. 470-471.



Dorso-lateral view of small clusters of bird's nest fungus in a concrete planter. Photograph by Chua Keng Soon