



New Deadly Box Jellyfish Species Found in Singapore

Description

Scientists have discovered a new species of box jellyfish near Sentosa Island, Singapore. This finding is significant as it reveals a greater diversity of these highly venomous creatures than previously known.

Researchers from Tohoku University and the National University of Singapore identified the jellyfish, naming it *Chironex blakangmati*. The name reflects the island's historical Malay title, *Pulau Blakang Mati*, which translates to "Island of Death Behind." This new species adds to the *Chironex* genus, which includes jellyfish capable of delivering life-threatening stings.

Initially, the presence of *C. blakangmati* was not clear. It closely resembles *Chironex yamaguchii*, documented in Okinawa waters. For years, experts believed they were the same species. Lead researcher Cheryl Ames highlighted the similarity, noting her previous work on *C. yamaguchii*. However, a deeper examination revealed that they are entirely distinct species.

Genetic analysis clarified the misunderstanding, while a detailed physical study confirmed the new species. The primary distinguishing feature is found in the jellyfish's perradial lappets, structures at the base of the bell that aid in movement. In *C. blakangmati*, these lappets lack the pointed canals seen in the other three known species.

This discovery opens the door for further research into the ecology and potential impacts of jellyfish in marine environments. Scientists will investigate the distribution and behaviour of *C. blakangmati* to better understand its role in coastal ecosystems.

Vocabulary List:

1. **species** //ˈspiːʃiːz// (noun): group of similar living animals or plants
2. **venomous** //ˈvenəməs// (adjective): having poison that can harm people
3. **diversity** //daɪˈvɜːsəti// (noun): variety of different kinds in one group
4. **genus** //ˈdʒɛnəs// (noun): group of similar species in biology
5. **genetic** //dʒəˈnetɪk// (adjective): related to genes in living things
6. **distribution** //ˌdɪstrəˈbjʊːʃən// (noun): how something is spread across places

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the newly discovered box jellyfish species near Sentosa Island?

- Option: Chironex blakangmati
- Option: Chironex yamaguchii
- Option: Chironex flaccidum
- Option: Chironex fleckeri

2. What does the title 'Pulau Blakang Mati' translate to?

- Option: Island of Death Behind
- Option: Island of Death Ahead
- Option: Island of Life Behind
- Option: Island of Life Ahead

3. Which universities conducted the research on the new jellyfish species?

- Option: Harvard University and MIT
- Option: Tohoku University and National University of Singapore
- Option: Stanford University and University of California
- Option: Yale University and Princeton University

4. What is the primary distinguishing feature of Chironex blakangmati?

- Option: Color
- Option: Size
- Option: Perradial lappets
- Option: Tentacle length

5. What did the genetic analysis reveal about Chironex blakangmati?

- Option: It is harmful to humans
- Option: It is the same species as Chironex yamaguchii
- Option: It is distinct from other jellyfish species
- Option: It is a freshwater species

6. What is the potential benefit of discovering new species of jellyfish?

- Option: Improving tourism
- Option: Understanding marine ecology
- Option: Increasing jellyfish populations
- Option: Developing new fishing techniques



True-False

7. Chironex blakangmati is named after a city in Japan.
8. The presence of Chironex blakangmati was initially uncertain due to its similarity to another species.
9. Chironex blakangmati can deliver life-threatening stings.
10. Scientists are not interested in the ecological impacts of jellyfish.
11. Chironex yamaguchii was believed to be the same species as Chironex blakangmati for many years.
12. Chironex blakangmati has pointed canals in its perradial lappets.

Gap-Fill

13. The newly discovered species is named Chironex _____.
14. Pulau Blakang Mati translates to 'Island of Death _____.'
15. Researchers from Tohoku University and the National University of _____ identified the jellyfish.
16. The primary distinguishing feature of C. blakangmati is found in its perradial _____.
17. Genetic analysis clarified the _____ about the jellyfish species.
18. This discovery opens the door for further research into the ecology and potential _____ of jellyfish.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Chironex blakangmati 2. Island of Death Behind 3. Tohoku University and National University of Singapore 4. Perradial lappets 5. It is distinct from other jellyfish species 6. Understanding marine ecology

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. blakangmati 14. Behind 15. Singapore 16. lappets 17. misunderstanding 18. impacts



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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Date Created

2026/05/20

Author

aimeeyoung99

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