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# New Deadly Box Jellyfish Species Found in Singapore Waters

## Description

Scientists have confirmed the existence of a new species of box jellyfish, which adds to the variety of known species. This discovery took place in the coastal waters near Sentosa Island, Singapore, by researchers from Tohoku University and the National University of Singapore.

The new jellyfish has been named *Chironex blakangmati*, after the island's historical Malay name, *Pulau Blakang Mati*, meaning "Island of Death Behind." This discovery brings the total number of jellyfish in the *Chironex* genus to four. These jellyfish are particularly dangerous, as their stings can be fatal to humans within minutes.

Initially, *C. blakangmati* was thought to be the same as another species called *Chironex yamaguchii*, which was first documented in Okinawa, Japan. For many years, the two species were confused due to their similar appearances. Lead researcher Cheryl Ames noted this similarity but concluded that they are distinct species. She examined an old sample of *C. yamaguchii* from her research at Okinawa to confirm the differences.

Genetic testing clarified the confusion, while a detailed examination of their physical structure confirmed it. The key difference lies in the jellyfish's perradial lappets—messy structures at the base of the bell. In previous species, these lappets have pointed canals, while *C. blakangmati* lacks them entirely. This finding enhances our understanding of jellyfish diversity and their ecosystems.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **species** //ˈspiːʃiːz// (noun): a group of similar kinds of animals or plants
2. **genus** //ˈdʒiːnəs// (noun): a group of related species in biology
3. **fatal** //ˈfeɪtəl// (adjective): causing death or able to make someone die
4. **documented** //ˈdɒkjəməntɪd// (verb): officially recorded or written in a report
5. **distinct** //dɪˈstɪŋkt// (adjective): clearly different from others and easy to see
6. **genetic** //dʒəˈnetɪk// (adjective): connected to genes or to a living thing's DNA

## Comprehension Questions



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## Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the newly discovered jellyfish species?  
Option: Chironex blakangmati  
Option: Chironex yamaguchii  
Option: Aurelia aurita  
Option: Cyanea capillata
2. Where was the new species of jellyfish discovered?  
Option: Great Barrier Reef  
Option: Sentosa Island, Singapore  
Option: Okinawa, Japan  
Option: Bali, Indonesia
3. How many species are there in the Chironex genus after this discovery?  
Option: Two  
Option: Three  
Option: Four  
Option: Five
4. What is the meaning of the historical name 'Pulau Blakang Mati'?  
Option: Island of Light  
Option: Island of Death Behind  
Option: Island of Jellyfish  
Option: Island of Research
5. Which university conducted the research alongside Tohoku University?  
Option: Harvard University  
Option: National University of Singapore  
Option: Stanford University  
Option: University of Tokyo
6. What did genetic testing clarify regarding the jellyfish species?  
Option: They are the same species  
Option: They are distinct species  
Option: They are variations of the same species  
Option: They have no relationship



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### True-False

7. The newly discovered jellyfish can be fatal to humans within seconds.
8. Cheryl Ames was the lead researcher who confirmed the differences between the jellyfish species.
9. *C. blakangmati* has pointed canals in its perradial lappets.
10. Okinawa, Japan, is where *Chironex yamaguchii* was first documented.
11. The study of *C. blakangmati* did not enhance understanding of jellyfish diversity.
12. The discovery of *C. blakangmati* took place in the coastal waters near Japan.

### Gap-Fill

13. The new jellyfish species is named \_\_\_\_\_ *blakangmati*.
14. Prior to the discovery, *C. blakangmati* was confused with \_\_\_\_\_ *yamaguchii*.
15. The historical name for Sentosa Island means 'Island of Death \_\_\_\_\_.'
16. Genetic testing helped clarify the confusion between jellyfish species and indicated they are \_\_\_\_\_ species.
17. The perradial lappets of *C. blakangmati* \_\_\_\_\_ pointed canals.
18. This discovery contributes to our understanding of jellyfish \_\_\_\_\_ and their ecosystems.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. *Chironex blakangmati* 2. Sentosa Island, Singapore 3. Four 4. Island of Death Behind 5. National University of Singapore 6. They are distinct species

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

**Gap-Fill:** 13. *Chironex* 15. Behind 16. distinct 17. lack 18. diversity

### CATEGORY

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1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

**POST TAG**

1. B2
2. box jellyfish
3. ESL learning
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5. Level 4
6. new species
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