



New Deadly Box Jellyfish Species Found in Singapore

Description

Scientists have found a new type of box jellyfish near Sentosa Island in Singapore. This jellyfish is called *Chironex blakangmati*.

The researchers from Tohoku University and the National University of Singapore made this discovery. The name *blakangmati* comes from the Malay words for "Island of Death Behind." This new jellyfish is dangerous. Its sting can kill a human in minutes.

At first, it looked very much like another jellyfish called *Chironex yamaguchii*. This jellyfish was first seen in Okinawa. People thought they were the same jellyfish for many years.

Lead researcher Cheryl Ames studied this new jellyfish. She noticed it was different from *C. yamaguchii*. To compare them, she checked an old sample of *C. yamaguchii* that she had from Okinawa.

Scientists used genetic tests and close examinations to confirm the differences. The new jellyfish does not have pointed canals found in the other three known species. This is how they discovered it is a new type.

Vocabulary List:

1. **discovery** //dɪ'skʌvəri// (noun): finding something new or not known before
2. **dangerous** //ˈdeɪndʒərəs// (adjective): likely to cause harm or injury
3. **sting** //stɪŋ// (noun): a sharp, painful touch from an animal
4. **genetic** //dʒə'netɪk// (adjective): related to the genes of a living thing
5. **confirm** //kən'fɜ:m// (verb): show that something is true or correct
6. **species** //ˈspi:ʃi:z// (noun): a group of animals or plants that are similar

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the new type of box jellyfish discovered near Sentosa Island?

Option: *Chironex yamaguchii*

Option: *Chironex blakangmati*



Option: Chironex okinawensis

Option: Chironex smithii

2. Which universities were involved in the discovery of the new jellyfish?

Option: Harvard University and Stanford University

Option: Tohoku University and National University of Singapore

Option: University of Tokyo and National University of Australia

Option: MIT and Yale University

3. What does the name 'blakangmati' mean?

Option: Island of Death Behind

Option: Jellyfish of the Sea

Option: Dangerous Creature

Option: Beautiful Guardian

4. What is a notable characteristic of the sting from the new jellyfish?

Option: It causes mild irritation

Option: It can kill a human in minutes

Option: It is not harmful

Option: It causes instant paralysis

5. Where was Chironex yamaguchii first seen?

Option: Sentosa Island

Option: Hawaii

Option: Okinawa

Option: Boracay

6. What did Cheryl Ames use to compare the new jellyfish with C. yamaguchii?

Option: An old sample from Okinawa

Option: Scientific literature

Option: Digital models

Option: Local aquatic life

True-False

7. The new jellyfish was discovered by researchers from only one university.

8. Chironex blakangmati can be lethal to humans within minutes.



9. Cheryl Ames is the lead researcher of the jellyfish study.
10. The new jellyfish has pointed canals found in other known species.
11. Chironex yamaguchii and Chironex blakangmati were thought to be the same for a long time.
12. The name 'blakangmati' is derived from Chinese.

Gap-Fill

13. The new jellyfish is called _____ blakangmati.
14. The jellyfish can kill a human in _____ minutes.
15. The name 'blakangmati' comes from the _____ words for 'Island of Death Behind.'
16. Cheryl Ames studied the new jellyfish using an old sample from _____.
17. Scientists confirmed the differences using genetic tests and _____ examinations.
18. Chironex yamaguchii was first seen in _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Chironex blakangmati 2. Tohoku University and National University of Singapore 3. Island of Death Behind 4. It can kill a human in minutes 5. Okinawa 6. An old sample from Okinawa

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

Gap-Fill: 13. Chironex 14. minutes 15. Malay 16. Okinawa 17. close

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