

## Many strange new creatures are discovered in China

This week Xingliang Zhang of Northwest University in China reports  
in Science the discovery of a new site full of animals that have never been  
seen before.

张兴亮

遗址 后置定语

eg. a catastrophic earthquake  
灾难性的地震

eg. the company's catastrophic losses  
这家公司遭受的灾难性损失  
catastrophic /kə'tæstrəfɪ/ n. 灾难

化石的来历

For soft-bodied animals to be preserved, something catastrophic must  
take place. In the case of the world's two most famous Cambrian sites,  
the Burgess Shale accumulation in Canada and the Chengjiang site in  
China, this catastrophe was a series of storms that dumped vast quantities  
of mud upon a community of animals, burying them alive.

软躯体动物

保存

a. 灾难性的; 引起重大灾难的

发生

Neil

/kæmbrɪən/ a. 寒武纪的, 与寒武纪相关的

n. 页岩 堆积, 积累

/dʌmp/

现在分词作状语 v. 倾到; 丢弃

dump A upon/on B 把很重的东西 e.g. Some factories dump toxic chemicals into the sea.  
eg. They dumped tons of salt on icy road surfaces. 一些工厂把有毒的化学物品倾倒入大海  
他们把成吨的盐撒到结冰的路面上。

最新发现  
的化石群  
的情况

The new site that Dr Zhang is reporting, known as Qingjiang, is  
similar to the others in that the animals seem to have been killed by a  
sudden mud burial. However, that is where the similarities end.  
突然如苏来的泥浆掩埋 相似之处

“清江生物群”  
的物种情况

Qingjiang has yielded over 20,000 specimens thus far. Of these, 4,351

/spesɪmən/ so far 迄今为止

出产, 产生  
这里指出工

n. 标本; 样本

species vs. specimen

species 指动植物的物种  
specimen 某个物种的一个标本  
用来做研究/展览



eg. My computer is not working properly (adv. 正确地, 令人满意地)  
我的电脑不能正常工作了。

The case wasn't properly investigated. 那个案子没有被彻底调查。

have been properly analysed and are thought to represent around 100 groups of creatures. Dr Zhang and his colleagues estimate that 54 of these groups have never been seen before.

挖掘出的化石  
所引发的一些疑问

There are some familiar animals like cnidarians, but these also raise extensive questions. Cnidarians exist widely in modern oceans and have simplistic bodies that suggest they evolved early during the rise of animal life. Given this, it was expected that when the Burgess Shale and Chengjiang sites were first excavated that cnidarians would be common in the sedimentary layers, but precisely the opposite proved true.

把前面的信息 → take this into account  
考虑在内  
的话  
sediment n. 沉积物  
沉积物. ex - 使某物出来  
sedimentary layer  
沉积层

/n(a)'derian/  
n. 刺胞动物  
/ekske'veit/  
v. 挖掘, 挖出  
恰当的 恰巧的 相反  
e.g. Most fast foods are loaded with fat.  
大多数快餐食品中都含有大量的脂肪。

Qingjiang surprised Dr Zhang by being loaded with spectacularly well-preserved members of this soft-bodied group. Containing everything from delicate comb jellies to the medusae that roam the seas and sting fish with their venomous tentacles. Qingjiang reveals that these animals were well established at the time and actually thriving in some environments. Precisely (what these environmental differences were)

venom n.  
-ous 有...性质的  
a highly venomous  
snake 一条剧毒的蛇  
/kəʊm 'dʒeli/  
这类软躯体动物群体 /trəʊm/  
漫游 /mi'dʒu:zə/  
水母 (复数) v. 闲逛, 漫游  
wander 闲逛  
/venəməs/  
分泌毒液的 有毒的  
/tentəkl/  
海洋动物 触角, 触角 (字面意思是 触摸器)  
feelers  
用来感受事物的东西  
长时间生活在某地  
确切地  
though, remains the subject of intensive inquiry.

eg. Barefoot children roamed the streets,  
在街上, 一群孩子光着脚在闲逛