

15. 竹は不思議な植物 (I) : 構造理解

Bamboos are the fastest-growing plants on Earth.

A typical bamboo grows as much as 10 centimeters in a single day.

Certain species grow up to a meter during the same period, or about 1 millimeter every 2 minutes.

You can actually see the plant grow in front of your eyes.

Most species of bamboo reach maturity in just 5 to 8 years.

Compare this to other popular hard woods that barely grow an inch in a week.

Trees such as oak can take up to 120 years to reach maturity. But when it comes to flowering,

bamboos are probably one of the slowest plants in the world.

The flowering of bamboos is an interesting phenomenon,

because it is a unique and very rare occurrence in the plant kingdom.

Most bamboos flower once every 60 to 130 years.

The long flowering intervals remain largely a mystery to many scientists.
