

Reading Analysis

New dolphin species

1


False - Not given

NOT GIVEN =
(at least) ONE
key word is
missing

- FALSE (NO) = ONLY one piece of information of the question is CONTRAST to the passage.
- NOT GIVEN = One/Some piece(s) of information is/are uncertain/missing.

2

New dolphin species



1 The Burrunan dolphin was given its name by Australian Aborigines.

Identified by DNA tests, the new mammals were right under researchers' noses.

A previously unknown species of dolphin has been identified in Australia. One of only three new dolphin species found since the 1800s, the Burrunan dolphin has been named after an Australian Aboriginal phrase that means 'large sea creature of the porpoise kind'. Only two populations have been discovered so far, both of them in the state of Victoria. Around a hundred have been located in Port Phillip Bay, a built-up area very close to Melbourne, Australia's second most populous city, while another fifty are known to frequent the saltwater coastal lakes of the rural Gippsland region, a couple of hundred miles away.

It's long been known that distinct dolphin populations roam off south-eastern Australia. But now DNA tests have shown that these dolphins are genetically very different from the other two local species, the common bottlenose and the Indo-Pacific bottlenose. The results were so surprising that the team initially thought there was a mistake and reran the tests. As Kate Charlton-Robb, a marine biologist at Monash University, says: 'The main focus of our research was to figure out which of the two known bottlenose species these dolphins belonged to. But from the DNA sequences that we got, it turned out that they were very different from either.'

maintained by Australian museums in the last century, and determined that Burrunan dolphins have slight cranial differences that sets them apart. And there are other observable differences, such as the Burrunan's more curved dorsal fin, a larger beak, and unique colouring that includes mid-grey and white.

So, the dolphins escape researchers' notice for physical variations in dolphins in south-eastern Australia have been reported for decades, though the new study is the first to use multiple lines of evidence to make a strong case for a distinct species. In fact, the Burrunan dolphin was almost discovered as far back as 1915, when a biologist captured and examined two very different dolphins from Australian waters. Scientists at the time concluded that both the animals were common bottlenose dolphins, and that their differences were due to one being male and the other female. After reviewing the female dolphin's skeleton recently, though, Charlton-Robb's team determined she was a Burrunan.

Because so few individuals belonging to the new dolphin species have been identified, the research team has petitioned the Australian government to list the animals as endangered. 'Given the small size of the population,' Charlton-Robb says 'it's really crucial that we make an effort to protect them.'

Keyword TYPE 1

Locate information

Statement 1

3

1 The Burrunan dolphin was given its name by Australian Aborigines.


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⇒ The passage just tells us about the meaning of the name and there's not enough information to decide whether the name was given by Australian Aborigines or not.

NOT GIVEN

4

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The team also examined dolphin skulls collected and maintained by Australian museums over the last century, and determined that Burruran dolphins have slight cranial differences that sets the species apart. And there are other observable differences too, including the Burruran's more curved dorsal fin, stubbier snout and unique colouring that includes dark grey, mottled and white.

So how did the dolphins escape researchers' notice for so long? Physicist researchers in dolphins in south-eastern Australia have been reported for decades, though the new study is the first to use multiple lines of evidence to make a strong case for a distinct species. In fact, the Burruran dolphin was almost discovered as far back as 1915, when a fisherman captured and examined two very different dolphins from Australian waters. Scientists at the time concluded that both the animals were common bottlenose dolphins, and that their differences were due to one being male and the other female. After reviewing the female dolphin's skeleton recently, though, Charlton-Robb's team determined she was a Burruran.

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Keyword TYPE 1

2 Both of the recently discovered populations of dolphins were found near urban areas.

Locate information

Statement 2

5

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creature of the porpoise kind'. Only two populations have been discovered so far, both of them in the state of Victoria. Around a hundred have been located in Port Phillip Bay, a built-up area very close to Melbourne, Australia's second most populous city, while another fifty are known to frequent the saltwater coastal lakes of the rural Gippsland region, a couple of hundred miles away.

=> Urban >< Rural

FALSE

6

New dolphin species



Indo-Pacific bottlenose. The results were so surprising that the team initially thought there was a mistake and reran the tests. As Kate Charlton-Robb, a marine biologist at Monash University, says: 'The main focus of the research was to figure out which of the two known bottlenose species these dolphins belonged to. But from the DNA tests that we got, it turned out that they were very different from either of them.'

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So how did the dolphins escape researchers' notice for so long?

3 The common bottlenose and the Indo-Pacific bottlenose are difficult to tell apart.

Identified by DNA tests, the new species was found under researchers' noses.

A previously unknown species of dolphin has been identified in Australia. One of only three new dolphin species found since the 1800s, the Burruran dolphin has been named after an Australian Aboriginal phrase that means 'large sea creature of the porpoise kind'. Only two populations have been discovered so far, both of them in the state of Victoria. Around a hundred have been located in Port Phillip, a built-up area very close to Melbourne, Australia's second most populous city, while another fifty are in the more frequent the saltwater coastal lakes of the rural region, a couple of hundred miles away.

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Locate information

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Keyword TYPE 1

Statement 3

7

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=> The passage just tells us about how these 2 species have different DNA ("genetically different") Burruran ("distinct dolphin populations") and there's not enough information to decide about how SIMILAR they are to each other.

NOT GIVEN

8

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Keyword TYPE 1

4 Scientists using DNA evidence immediately realised that the Burruran was a previously unidentified species.

Identified by DNA tests, the Burruran dolphin has been identified under researchers' noses.

A previously unknown species of dolphin has been identified in Australia. One of only three new dolphin species found since the 1800s, the Burruran dolphin has been named after an Australian Aboriginal phrase that means 'large sea creature of the porpoise kind'. Only two populations have been discovered so far, both of them in the state of Victoria. Around a hundred have been located in Port Phillip, a built-up area very close to Melbourne, Australia's second most populous city, while another fifty are located in the more frequent the saltwater coastal lakes of the rural Gippsland region, a couple of hundred miles away.

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Locate information

Statement 4

9

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FALSE

10

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So how did the dolphins escape researchers' notice for so long? Physical variations in dolphins in south-eastern Australia have been reported for decades, though the new study is the first to use multiple lines of evidence to make a strong case for a distinct species. In 1915, the Burruran dolphin was almost discovered as far back as 1915, when a biologist captured and examined two very different dolphins from Australian waters. Scientists at the time concluded that both the animals were common bottlenose dolphins, and that their differences were due to one being male and the other female. After reviewing the female dolphin's skeleton recently, though, Charlton-Robb's team determined it was a Burruran.

Because so few individuals belonging to the new dolphin species have been identified, the researchers say the species is endangered. Given the small size of the population, Charlton-Robb says 'it's really crucial that we make an effort to protect them.'

5 Burruran dolphins share the same colouring as other bottlenose dolphins.

Locate information

Keyword TYPE 1

Statement 5

11

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=> share the same colouring >< unique colouring

FALSE

12

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Because so few individuals belonging to the new dolphin species have been identified, the research team has petitioned the Australian government to list the animals as endangered. 'Given the small size of the population,' Charlton-Robb says 'it's really crucial that we make an effort to protect them.'

Keyword TYPE 1

6 The skeletons of two dolphins captured in 1915 have been re-examined recently.

Locate information

Statement 6

13

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=>the female dolphin != both

FALSE

14

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7 The Australian government intends to put the Burrunan dolphin on the endangered list.

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Keyword TYPE 1

Locate information

Locate information

Statement 7

15

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=> The passage just tells us about the research team's petition to the government and there's not enough information to decide if there is any action from the Australian's government

NOT GIVEN

16