

## = Panama Creature =

The " Panama Creature " ( also variously referred to as the " Panama Monster " , " Panama ET " " Cerro Azul Monster " , " Blue Stream Monster " or " Blue Hill Horror " ) refers to a creature photographed near the town of Cerro Azul , Panama , in September 2009 . After the creature was discovered and reputedly killed by a group of teenagers , photographs of the corpse were given to Telemetro , a Panamanian television station . The story and pictures circulated , and comparisons to the Montauk Monster were made . There was speculation about the identity of the creature , with suggestions including a hairless sloth , an alien species and a creature new to science . A biopsy performed by the National Environmental Authority of Panama on the remains a few days after the creature 's discovery concluded that the corpse was in fact that of a male brown @-@ throated sloth . The odd appearance had been caused by underwater decomposition , which had resulted in hair loss . Once identified , the corpse was buried .

## = = Events = =

A group of four or five teenagers aged between 14 and 16 claim to have been playing near a cave in Cerro Azul , Panama when the creature emerged . They say that it approached them , and , fearing for their safety , they attacked the creature with sticks and rocks , killing it . They claim that they then threw its corpse into a pool of water before leaving the area . They later returned and took photographs of the creature 's corpse , before sending the pictures to Telemetro , a Panamanian television station . Virginia Wheeler , writing for The Sun , claimed that the discovery " sparked fear and confusion " in the town . According to some sources , subsequent photographs were taken of the creature after it had further decomposed ; however , doubts have been expressed about whether the later photos were of the same specimen . A few days after the photographs were taken , one of the teenagers gave a different account in an interview with Telemetro Reporta , saying " I was in the river and I felt something grabbing my legs ... We took it out of the water and started throwing rocks and sticks at it . We had never seen anything like that . " The photographs show a pale creature that is mostly hairless , with a rubbery body . It has " revolting features " ; a snub @-@ nose and long arms . Writers for the Huffington Post said that while the head is clearly animal , the torso is " strange " , while the limbs are reminiscent of thin human arms . Writers for WBALTV.com compared it to both a " small , portly " version of the alien in E.T. the Extra @-@ Terrestrial and The Lord of the Rings 's Gollum 's " long @-@ lost cousin " .

## = = Speculation = =

The story and the photographs circulated the Internet , including various cryptozoology blogs , with a great amount of speculation about possible explanations . A video showing the original photographs , as well as some footage of the further decomposed corpse , became very popular on the web , being one of the most viewed videos over the course of a day . In addition to its prevalence on the Internet , the story was covered on television and radio . Comparisons were drawn to the Montauk Monster found in Montauk , New York in June 2008 . A popular theory was that the Panama Creature was a sloth ( perhaps an albino ) that had somehow become hairless ; proponents of the hypothesis cited the hooked claw visible in one of the photographs . Science author Darren Naish , writing for ScienceBlogs , supported the sloth hypothesis , but had a " difficult time " explaining the creature 's hairlessness . The sloth theory was generally considered most credible ; in 1996 , similar photographs were taken of a creature found on the coast between Panama and Costa Rica that was later confirmed to be a sloth that had started to decay . Further Internet speculation led to some proposing that it was in fact a dolphin or a pit bull terrier , an example of a species previously unknown to science , or some sort of genetic mutation . Some Panamanian zoologists said that it appeared to be a fetus of some kind . In addition to naturalistic explanations , Billy Booth of About.com reported that " there has been speculation that it is alien , and thereby the connection to UFOs , undersea bases , the whole ball of wax " .

= = Necropsy = =

The creature 's corpse was recovered four days after the encounter , and a biopsy was performed by the National Environmental Authority of Panama ( ANAM ) . The biopsy concluded that the corpse was in fact a male brown @-@ throated sloth , a species common in the area . André Sena Maia , a veterinarian who works at Niterói Zoo , Rio de Janeiro , Brazil , explained that " most people know how a dead animal looks like in a dry environment " , and claimed that " the body must have got stuck under the water , and the movement of the currents gave the false impression that it was alive . " A necropsy revealed that severe trauma had been inflicted on the body of the sloth , and Melquiades Ramos , a specialist from the ANAM Department of Protected Areas , estimated that the body had been in the water for " about two days " prior to discovery . The hairlessness was probably caused by the fact it was submerged in water , which can lead to acceleration of fur loss , resulting in smooth skin . A post @-@ mortem bloating further contributed to the unusual appearance of the corpse . After the sloth was identified , its body was buried by ANAM staff .