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Animal Discoveries

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Written by Karen Mockler

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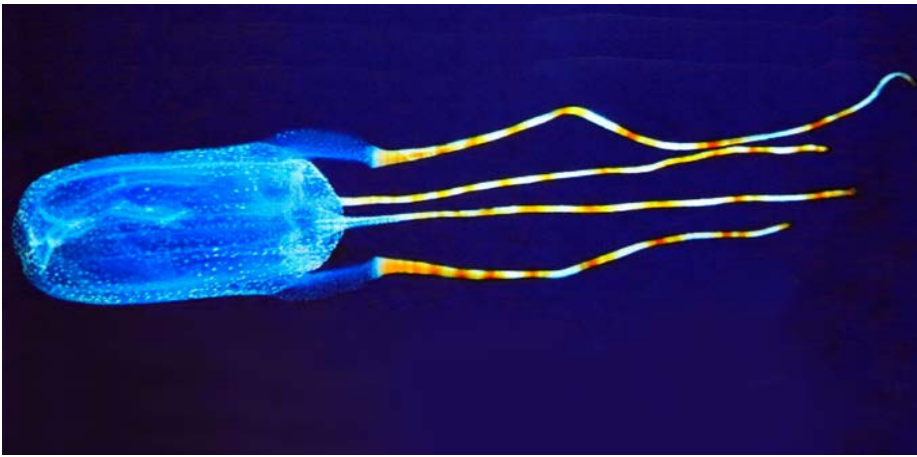
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| 1 Democratic Republic of Congo: lesula monkey | 5 Madagascar: Goodman's mouse lemur | 8 Atlantic Ocean: Gorgon's head starfish |
| 2 Colombia: Caquetá titi monkey | 6 Brazil: Sazima's tarantula | 9 Indonesia: walking bamboo shark |
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The Bonaire banded box jellyfish's scientific name is *Tamoya ohboya*. The name was chosen in a contest. The winner said most people would say "Oh boy!" when seeing the jellyfish.

Introduction

If you wanted to find a new animal **species**, where would you look? You might look in **remote** corners of the globe.

Scientists find more than 15,000 animal species each year. That's 1 percent of the more than 1.5 million species we know about already. At the same time, species are dying out at record rates around the globe. For this reason, when we do stumble on a new species, it is an important discovery.

Monkey Mania

In 2007, a new species of monkey was found in the forests of Central Africa. The lesula has large eyes and is shy and quiet. The first one found by scientists was being kept as a pet.



In 2010, scientists found the Caquetá titi monkey by listening to its calls. This monkey lives in the Amazon jungle.

The Caquetá is known for its bushy red beard. It doesn't have a white bar on its forehead as other titi monkeys do. Its babies purr like cats. Only around 250 Caquetá titi monkeys are alive today, meaning the species is **endangered**.





The Matang narrow-mouthed frog lays its eggs in pitcher plants.
The tadpoles grow in the liquid inside.

Freaky, Fabulous Frogs

The Matang narrow-mouthed frog is the size of a pea. It was discovered on the island of Borneo in 2010. It turns out that scientists had seen these frogs before. They thought the frogs were the young of a different species. Then, they heard the frogs calling. Since only adult frogs make calls, they realized that these tiny frogs must be full-grown.



The long-nosed tree frog is also known as the spike-nosed tree frog.

A scientist discovered the long-nosed tree frog in 2010. This frog lives in the Foja Mountains of New Guinea. The area has been called the “Lost World.” This tree frog is known for its long nose. It is sometimes called the Pinocchio frog. When the male frog calls, its nose points up. When the frog is done calling, its nose falls. No one knows why.

When the blossom bat feeds on nectar, it also helps pollinate the flower, which can then make seeds to grow new plants.



Furry Finds

Another find during the 2010 Foja Mountains trip was the blossom bat. It uses its long tongue to drink nectar from flowers.

During a 2005 trip to Madagascar, researchers found Goodman's mouse lemurs. Not much bigger than mice, these tiny lemurs jump around in the trees at night. During the daytime, they sometimes sleep in empty birds' nests.

Do You Know?

Lemurs are only found in Madagascar.



Goodman's mouse lemurs



Sazima's tarantulas are only found in the tabletop mountains of Brazil. These mountains have a different climate than the surrounding area.

Interesting Invertebrates

Scientists think that vertebrates—animals with backbones—make up only 3 percent of all species. The remaining 97 percent of animal species known to scientists are invertebrates—animals without backbones.

Sazima's tarantula has a special beauty. Its dark blue body almost glows. This fantastic **arachnid** has a limited **habitat**. It only lives high in the mountains of Brazil.



Like most insects, planthoppers go through stages of development. This young planthopper is just beginning to develop wings.

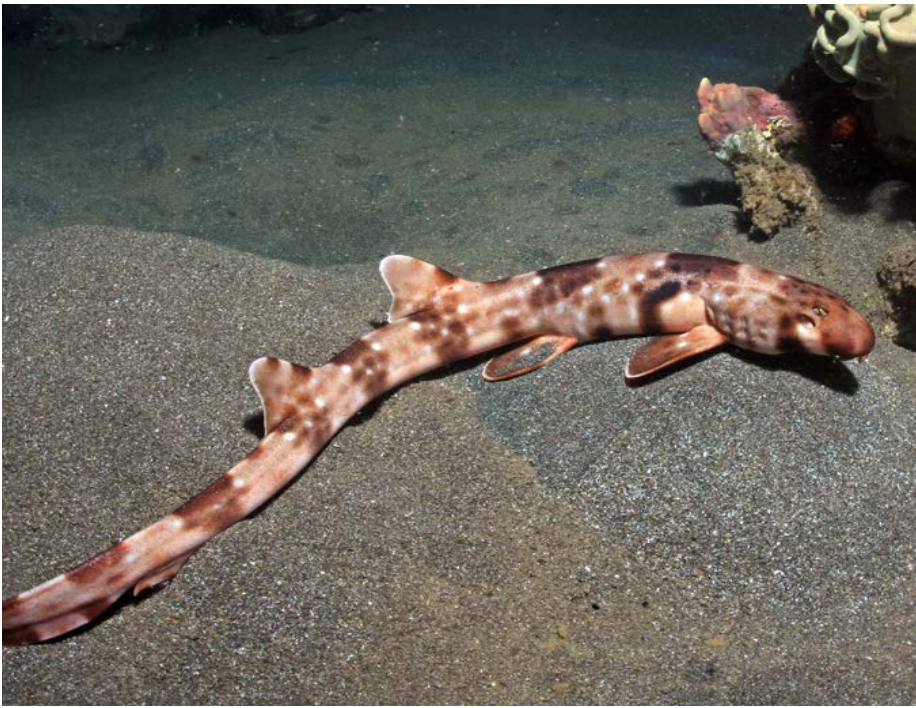
Discovered in 2013 in South America, this new type of planthopper looks strange. The wild hair isn't hair at all. When an enemy attacks, the "hair" breaks off, and the planthopper can jump to safety. That's what scientists think, anyway, but they aren't sure.



The Gorgon's head starfish is named for the Gorgons from Greek mythology. These creatures had hundreds of snakes on their heads instead of hair.

Underwater Wonders

Scientists found the Gorgon's head starfish in 2010 in the Atlantic Ocean. The Gorgon's head, a type of basket star, has five arms that split off from its body. The five arms have as many as five thousand tips. The tips help it find food floating by in the water. It also uses its arms to walk along the ocean bottom and to protect itself.



The walking bamboo shark has different patterns of stripes and spots from other bamboo sharks.

It took until 2013 to find the walking bamboo shark. Like most sharks, it is no threat to humans. It lives off the coast of Indonesia. Scientists found it because the colors on its back are different from those of other sharks. This new species uses its fins to push itself along the ocean floor in search of food. The wiggling movement makes it look as though the shark is walking.

Olinguitos have smaller, rounder faces and shorter tails than olingos, which they were mistaken for.



Hiding in Plain View

For more than a hundred years, scientists thought the olinguito (oh-lin-GEE-toh) was another species. In 2013, they discovered that they had been wrong. The olinguito leaps through trees at night. The smallest member of the raccoon family, it can be found in South America.

Mistaken Identity

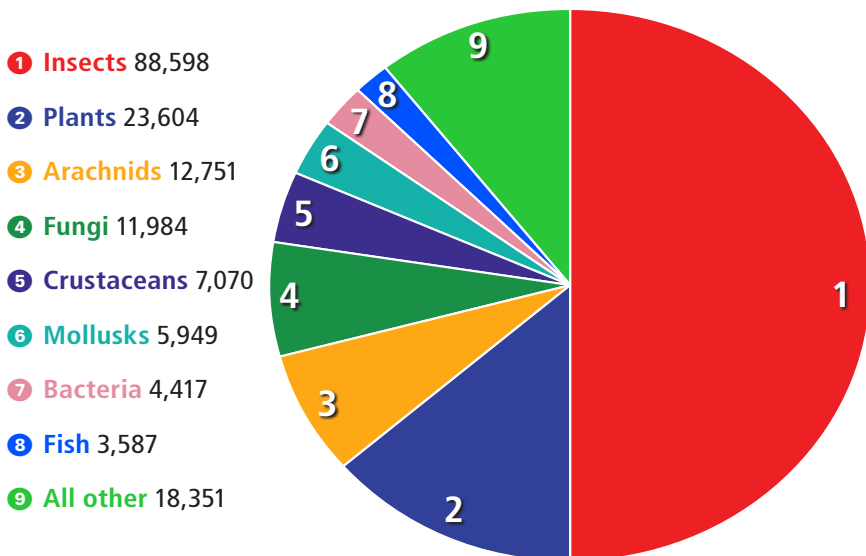
Humans may encounter an unidentified species for years while mistaking it for a familiar species. This often happens because the two species look the same, at least on the outside. These are called *cryptic species*. They are only found to be distinct when scientists study their genetic code. As DNA technology is used more and more, reports of distinct new species are on the rise.



The Cambodian tailorbird is hard to find because it lives in dense brush.

In 2009, researchers found the Cambodian tailorbird. Tests showed that this tailorbird was a new species. Scientists also studied the bird's song. While all tailorbirds sing, no two species sound the same. Sure enough, the song of the Cambodian tailorbird is different from all the rest.

Number of Species Discovered by Type 2000–2009



Source: *Retro SOS 2000–2009: A Decade of Species Recovery in Review*; International Institute for Species Exploration

What's Next?

Scientists continue to amaze us by finding new species. Experts agree that many more have yet to be found.

Many of these newly found species are in danger of dying out. Finding them means we can help save their homes. Doing this can save the animals that live there, both those we know about and those we don't know about . . . yet.

Glossary

arachnid (<i>v.</i>)	a living thing that has two body segments and eight legs; includes spiders and scorpions (p. 9)
endangered (<i>adj.</i>)	in danger of dying out completely (p. 5)
habitat (<i>n.</i>)	the natural environment of a plant or animal (p. 9)
remote (<i>adj.</i>)	distant or isolated (p. 4)
scientists (<i>n.</i>)	people who study one or more fields of science (p. 4)
species (<i>n.</i>)	a group of living things that are physically similar and can reproduce (p. 4)

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Title page: The psychedelic frogfish, discovered in 2009 in Indonesia, hops rather than swims. It pushes off the seafloor with its fins and pushes water out from its gills.

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