

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Dalek wasps, lightbulb anemones and giant penguins

This is an edited version of a story from
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Dalek wasp

2023 has been the year of the wasp, with a staggering 619 new species described by the Natural History Museum.

Scientists decided to bestow one genus of wasp — covering 14 species — with the name of Dalek, in a nod to Doctor Who. “I thought it was a good name for a genus and a bit of fun having been a big fan of Doctor Who in my early years,” says Dr John Noyes, who worked on the discovery.

Light bulb anemone

Although the light bulb anemone has been known by divers and aquarium keepers for decades, it was only in 2023 that it was officially described with a Latin name, *Bellactis lux*.

This translucent sea creature is found in the Gulf of Mexico, but it's a difficult one to spot as it sometimes measures just 1.3cm across.

Giant crab spider

Arachnophobics, look away now. A super-sized spider was discovered in the Ecuadorian Amazon this year. Pedro Peñaherrera-R. and Diego Cisneros-Heredia stumbled across the colossus, a giant crab spider from the genus *Sadala*, while on a hike near the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in Ecuador.



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The mammoth beast lies in wait in trees ready to pounce and ensnare passing insects.

DiCaprio's snail-eating snake

Five new snail-eating snakes have been described by scientists in 2023.

One tree-dwelling species has received the name DiCaprio's snail-eating snake, or *Sibon irmelindicaprioae* in Latin.

The name was chosen by the famed actor (and conservationist) Leonardo DiCaprio but honours his mother Irmelin. The snake is found in Panama and Colombia.

Giant penguin

Scientists in New Zealand discovered the bones of two species of giant penguins that would have roamed the area some 50 million years ago. The *Kumimanu fordycei* would have weighed about as much as a giant panda but been graceful in the sea.

“Many early fossil penguins attained enormous sizes, easily dwarfing the largest penguins alive today,” says Daniel Field, a University of Cambridge researcher who co-authored the description of the species.

“*Kumimanu fordycei* is the largest fossil penguin ever discovered.”

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

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