



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Five amazing new animals found in one year

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Describing:** What scientists call it when they write about a new species
- ☐ **Genus:** A family of related species
- ☐ **Translucent:** Something that light can pass through
- ☐ **Bulbous:** Shaped like a bulb



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Species are how scientists group living things. Currently, about 2.1 million species have been described, but scientists think that there are a lot more. If you include different kinds of bacteria and other tiny creatures there are probably more than eight million!

We often hear about species disappearing. But scientists are also **describing** new ones every year. Here are five of the standout species of 2023!

Dalek wasp

Six hundred and nineteen species of wasp made it onto the books in 2023. But one **genus** made headlines because of its science fiction name. Fourteen species of wasp have now been named in a nod to the Daleks, the evil aliens from Doctor Who.

Light bulb anemone

This little **translucent** sea creature is only about 1.3cm along. It has little tentacles that end in **bulbous** tips, and can be found in the gulf of Mexico.

Giant crab spider

This amazing spider was discovered by two scientists out hiking in Ecuador. It's got a fuzzy orange body, and stands with its legs out a bit like a crab — which explains the name!

DiCaprio's snail-eating snake

This snake, in Panama and Colombia, has a famous name. In Latin, it's *Sibon irmelindicaprioae*. Leonardo DiCaprio named it to honour his mother Irmelin. The movie star is a keen nature lover.

Giant penguin

Sadly this one's not still with us. But it's big news nevertheless. Scientists in New Zealand found the bones of a 50-million-year-old giant penguin!





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

WILL WE EVER KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WORLD?

1 TAKE ACTION

One way to keep track of species is to do a **biodiversity audit**. Make a list of every animal, plant, or bug that you see in one place, like a nearby park or your garden, over the course of a week. Make sure to visit at different times!

WHAT
colour is the
giant crab
spider?

WHO
named the snail
eating snake?

WHERE
did they find
the giant
penguin?

WHEN
did the giant
penguin roam
the Earth?

WHY
did wasps have
a good 2023?

HOW
long is the light
bulb anemone?



2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that shows off the biodiversity in your chosen spot! Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

Can the species discovered in 2023 get along. Based on what you know about their habitats and needs, can you design a shelter for the five amazing animals of the year?

STEP 1:

Think about your design!
What does each animal need?
Do you need to stop any from eating the others? Is your shelter going to be like a zoo, or even an ark?

STEP 2: Build the change!

Create your shelter. If you have time, why not make it out of LEGO® bricks or other bits of recycling?

Share your genius
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

4

BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have an island created just for animals to live on sustainably.

"GREAT WORK!"

