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Turtle navigation discovery

新发现：绿海龟辨别方向的方法



绿海龟是怎样在漫无边际的海洋中航行、找到阿森松岛的沙滩并在那里搭窝的？科学家们对它们的这一习性有了新的见解。

Every year between December and June, thousands of green sea turtles **migrate**. They go to Ascension Island to nest - females **crawling** ashore to lay their eggs in the sand. Because of the **remote** location and cost of research though, scientists still do not understand exactly how they get there.

每年 12 月到次年 6 月，成千上万只绿海龟迁徙。它们游到阿森松岛搭窝：雌龟爬上岸，在沙滩上挖坑产卵。然而，由于地点偏远和研究成本高昂，科学家们仍不清楚它们是如何到达那里的。

Now they've developed a model which **simulates** part of that **arduous** journey. What the scientists found is that the species uses a range of **weak cues** rather than a few strong ones, which could lead them **off course**. It makes sense - as relying on a single **navigating** cue, such as an inbuilt compass, could **render** them sensitive to change.

现在，他们研发出了一个模型来模拟绿海龟的那段艰辛征程。科学家们发现，该物种使用一系列微弱的线索来辨别方向，而不是靠可能引导它们偏离航线的大线索。这是有道理的，因为依靠单一的线索来定向，比如其体内的生物罗盘，可能使它们对变化十分敏感。

The scientists say that understanding how fish, animals and birds navigate could help them **figure out** how to protect those that are endangered, as well as what factors might affect their behaviour.

科学家们说，了解鱼、兽和鸟类的定向方式可以帮助他们弄清楚如何保护濒危动物以及哪些因素可能影响这些动物的行为。

1. 词汇表

migrate	(动物) 迁徙
crawling	缓慢地爬行
remote	偏远的, 遥远的
simulates	模拟
arduous	艰辛的, 艰巨的
weak cues	弱线索
off course	偏离方向
navigating	用来确定、辨别方向的
render	使变得
figure out	理解, 弄清楚

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. True or false? *If turtles follow less frequent, stronger cues, they are more likely to get lost.*

2. Where do the female turtles lay their eggs?

3. Why has research into the green sea turtles been difficult to do in the past?

4. What might the benefit of this research about turtles be?

3. 答案

1. True or false? *If turtles follow less frequent, stronger cues, they are more likely to get lost.*

True. Scientists found that the species uses a range of weak cues rather than a few strong ones, which could lead them off course (or get lost).

2. Where do the female turtles lay their eggs?

They lay their eggs on the land, buried in the sand.

3. Why has research into the green sea turtles been difficult to do in the past?

Because of the Ascension Island's remote location and cost of research, scientists have not been able to understand exactly how they get there.

4. What might the benefit of this research about turtles be?

The scientists say that understanding how fish, animals and birds navigate could help them work out how to protect those that are endangered – such as the green sea turtles.