Yeti Bones Were Actually Just Bears, DNA Analysis Shows

It's the most rigorous analysis to date of Yeti samples, the researchers say.

The legend of the Yeti has circulated for much of the last hundred years. Popular culture has us seeing the abominable snowman as the quintessential apex predator. A biological taxon, however, has been elusive. Now, thanks in part to a sample of hair from a Yeti-like creature found in the Himalayas, the elusive creature might be ever so slightly less mysterious.

The scientists at work on the hair sample are a team of four researchers: J. M. D. Chakraborty, P. R. Y. Dhal, and A. B. Thakuri of the University of Berkeley; and J. B. Thakuri of the University of Oxford.

They conducted a DNA analysis of the hair sample and found that it was from a species of bear. The researchers suggest that the Yeti, or Himalayan brown bear (Ursus thibetanus), is actually a subspecies of the brown bear.

This is significant because it challenges the idea that the Yeti is a completely different and unknown species. Instead, it suggests that the Yeti may be a subspecies of the brown bear, which could help explain its behavior and characteristics.

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