《惊奇！被发现的猛犸遗体竟然多数是雄性的》

猛犸象是远古巨兽，我们能从其高大的化石骨骼依稀想象出这些庞然大物的原始面貌。最近科学家们通过基因竟然鉴定出这些巨兽竟然多数是雄性的，这就有点儿奇怪了吧……

Woolly mammoths once ruled the northern reaches of our planet—roaming from Portugal to Siberia, and beyond to Alaska, Canada and the American midwest. And the massive beasts left lots of fossil evidence of their occupation.

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But now scientists have noticed a strange trend among those mammoth remains. The researchers genetically analyzed the fossilized bones, teeth and tusks of 98 individual Siberian mammoths. And they found that 70 percent of the mammoths…were males.

??98????????????????????????????????????70%????……?????

"So essentially we think this is driven by two different things." Love Dalén, a paleogeneticist and professor at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. "In general, in wild animals, males tend to be more risk-taking."

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The second thing, if modern elephant culture is any indication, is that male mammoths may have been solitary loners. More likely to crash through thin ice and sinkholes, or get caught in a mudslide than females. These types of death are more likely to become preserved—so those are the remains that we find. The study is in the journal Current Biology.

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Dalén says this is an important reminder that the fossil record is far from complete. "The fossils we find might not always be representative of the species back when it lived." But with a little detective work, even seemingly random remains have much to reveal.

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