

《中国武汉科学家团队揭开SARS疫情谜底：病毒源自蝙蝠》

15年前，可怕的SARS在全球蔓延，人人恐慌。那么SARS病毒到底源自哪里？武汉的科学家们找到了答案。



Scientists have pinpointed a population of virus-infected bats, which they have linked to the mysterious outbreak of Sars disease 15 years ago. Hundreds died as the virus spread around the globe but its source was never traced.

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Now, after years of searching across China, where the disease first emerged, researchers reported a few days ago that they had found a remote cave in Yunnan province, which is home to horseshoe bats that carry a strain of a particular virus known as a coronavirus. This strain has all the genetic building blocks of the type that triggered the global outbreak of Sars in 2002.

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“This will certainly not be the only cave that contains bats infected with these strains of virus, but it is really important that we have found the first one,” said Sars expert Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust. “Samples from these bats will make it much easier to develop a vaccine for the disease and help us be prepared for another outbreak.”

“However, this is good news overall,” said Farrar. “We now have something concrete to work on, and I applaud the openness of these Chinese scientists in sharing their work and – I hope – these virus strains.”

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