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Evolutionary Bursts

http://www.frontlight.cn 2007-03-26

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[摘要] 23 March 2007. The movement of species from one location to another can have a major impact on the speed with which life diversifies, suggests research from The University of Auckland.

[关键词] species;immigration history

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The movement of species from one location to another can have a major impact on the speed with which life diversifies, suggests research from The University of Auckland.

The diversity of life is thought to have arisen through a series of bursts of evolution, referred to as adaptive radiations. Research from The University of Auckland suggests that immigration history is a key factor influencing this process.

The research is published in this week's *Nature* journal.

Professor Paul Rainey and colleagues used simple microbial populations that evolve quickly over time to study the processes influencing adaptive radiation. They found that the sequence in which different species arrive in a given isolated habitat affects subsequent diversification.

"Diversity in biological communities is a historical product of immigration, diversification and extinction but the combined effect of these processes is poorly understood," says Professor Rainey of the University's School of Biological Sciences. "In this paper, we show that the order and timing of immigration controls the extent of diversification. Even small changes in immigration history can have a big knock on effect. The origins, extent, f

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