

Mongolian Death Worm

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The Mongolian death worm entered expedition literature as a creature nobody in the room had seen. Its reported danger was immediate; its physical evidence has remained much harder to find.

STATUS	Traceable expedition-era folklore; no verified specimen
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Gobi Desert, Mongolia
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Documented in Roy Chapman Andrews's 1926 expedition book

THE ACCOUNT

Roy Chapman Andrews recorded the death worm in his 1926 account of expeditions to Mongolia. Officials asked him to obtain a specimen of a creature described as thick, short and sausage-like, without an obvious head, tail or legs. It was said to be lethally poisonous. The request brought a desert legend into the paperwork of an actual scientific journey. Andrews later wrote that he considered the animal probably mythical, but the name continued traveling long after his expedition returned.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

PBS's Monstrum traces this published encounter with the story and distinguishes it from later embellishments. Familiar claims about acid or electrical attacks should not all be projected backward onto one unchanged ancient account. Andrews documented what he was told, not a worm he captured or observed. The sources reviewed here provide no authenticated specimen establishing the creature described in these retellings.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

There is a particular unease in an animal imagined without a readable front or back. Nothing in its outline tells you where to look for intention. The expedition setting sharpens that feeling: an official request sounds practical, even when the requested object may belong entirely to inherited fear.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Death Worms: Fact or Fiction?

PBS / Monstrum

<https://www.pbs.org/video/death-worms-fact-or-fiction-ruz8iy/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Mongolian Death Worm

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-015>