

and feces believed to belong to the Yeti. The specimens included samples collected in the 1930s on the Tibetan plateau, relics from famed Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner's museum, as well as more recent findings of hair and bone discovered by a nomadic herdsman and some Tibetan spiritual healers. The team also analysed samples from several native bears — including the Himalayan brown and black bears and the Tibetan brown bear.

To determine each specimen's owner, the researchers turned to the mitochondrial DNA, or mDNA. Located inside the namesake cells, it contains genetic material passed down by mothers. The results of the study, unveiled in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society* revealed that eight of the nine so-called Yeti samples came from local bears, while one belonged to a dog!

Though the findings may be heartbreaking for Yeti fans, the study did produce the first ever DNA mapping of the critically endangered Himalayan brown bear and the vulnerable Himalayan black bear species. This will allow scientists to better understand the relationship between the rare brown bear subspecies and common bears. It will also help verify the current theory that the subspecies branched out from the others almost 600,000 years ago.

Lindqvist, who plans to continue researching the bear genetics, says, "It was exciting to find that the **purported** Yeti samples, without doubt, are not strange hybrid bear creatures, but simply related to local brown and black bears." The expert concedes the study will not alter the Asian belief in the Yeti's existence, which "is

very important to the local culture and folklore." She does, however, hope that her findings will convince the rest of the world to stop yearning for proof of the mythical beast.

36. Choose the best title or heading for the passage
- A. The Bear Truth of a Myth
 - B. Yetis Run Free
 - C. Highland Explorers Find Evidence
 - D. No More Research Needed
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37. When was the Oxford findings argued against?
- A. 2014
 - B. 2013
 - C. 2012
 - D. 1951
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38. Why was the research important?
- A. It raised the awareness of locals to help protect the wildlife.
 - B. It stopped people from Yeti hunting.
 - C. It gave evidence that there is an unknown species.
 - D. It helped us understand bears in the area.
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39. The new evidence about Yetis being bears will do little to stop _____.
- A. bears disappearing
 - B. people's faith in them
 - C. hunting in the Himalayas
 - D. human interaction with them
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40. What is the meaning of the word 'purported' in the last paragraph?
- A. Treated
 - B. Known
 - C. Supposed
 - D. Convinced