

据一项研究显示，老鼠并非传播黑死病这场瘟疫的罪魁祸首。人们曾经普遍认为，在15到20世纪欧洲爆发的一系列疾病是由啮齿动物及鼠蚤大范围扩散而导致的。然而，来自挪威奥斯陆和意大利费拉拉市部分大学的研究团队发现，黑死病肆虐其实另有原因。

Scientists used **historical records** from plague **outbreaks** in nine European cities, building a picture of how the disease spread.

科学家们利用九个欧洲城市的瘟疫爆发历史记录再现了该病在当时传播的过程。

They then compared the actual spread to three **computer-simulated** outbreaks: One where the disease was **transmitted** by rat fleas, one where it was **airborne** and another that **modelled** the transmission by fleas and lice that live on humans and their clothes.

接着，他们把实际的传播过程与计算机模拟生成的三类爆发情况做了比较。这三类爆发分别是由鼠蚤传播、经空气传播以及依靠人类身上寄生的跳蚤和虱子传播的模拟情况。

Their conclusion: human lice caused the **pandemic** because this model **mimicked** the actual spread of the Black Death much more closely than the others.

这组科学家给出的结论是：由于该模型模拟生成的黑死病实际传播情况要比其它研究更加仔细，所以他们认为人类身上的虱子才是导致这场流行病的原因。

1. 词汇表

historical records	历史记录、记载
outbreaks	(疾病) 爆发
computer-simulated	由计算机模拟的
transmitted	被传染、被传播
airborne	借空气传播的
modelled	模拟了, 以...建立了模型
pandemic	(大范围的) 流行病
mimicked	模仿了

2. 阅读理解: 请在读完上文后, 回答下列问题。(答案见下页)

1. True or false? *Researchers illustrated how the Black Death disease spread by painting a picture.*
2. How many outbreaks of the disease did researchers get the computer to simulate?
3. Name somewhere mentioned in the report where fleas and lice lived on humans.
4. Why do experts think this research gives a more accurate explanation about who spread the disease?

3. 答案

1. True or false? *Researchers illustrated how the Black Death disease spread by painting a picture.*

False. The term 'building a picture' used in the report means 'developing a better understanding'.

2. How many outbreaks of the disease did researchers get the computer to simulate?

Researchers compared the actual spread to three computer-simulated outbreaks.

3. Name somewhere mentioned in the report where fleas and lice lived on humans.

A computer simulation looked at fleas and lice that live on humans and their clothes.

4. Why do experts think this research gives a more accurate explanation about who spread the disease?

This model mimicked the actual spread of the Black Death much more closely than other models.