



研究人员们首次对世界上真菌的生存状况开展了大规模的评估调查。他们发现，真菌王国对于地球万物来说至关重要，尽管目前世界上约有三百八十万种真菌种类，但仍有超过 **90%**是科学未知的。

From foods to medicines, to recycling **nutrients** – fungi are **vital** for life on Earth. But with many hidden away in the soil, or invisible to the naked eye, they're often **overlooked**.

从食物到药材，到再生营养物质，真菌对地球上的生命来说至关重要。但由于很多真菌都被埋在土壤里或用肉眼无法看到，所以人们经常会忽视它们的重要性。

Scientists have pulled together information on these **curious organisms** to highlight gaps in our knowledge. DNA studies suggest there may be almost four million different fungi, but science has identified less than ten per cent of them. And only about **50** species have been **evaluated** for the extinction **Red List** compared with thousands of plants and animals.

科学家们收集了有关这种奇异有机体的信息，从而引起人们对这一知识空白的注意。**DNA** 研究显示，世界上可能有近四百万种不同的真菌，但科学仅能辨别出不到 **10%**。和成千上万的植物和动物相比，科学家们只对约五十个真菌物种是否能列入世界自然保护联盟濒危物种红色名录中进行了评估。

Director of Science at Kew, Professor Cathy Willis, says we ignore fungi **at our peril**.

Fungi have potential for **breaking down** plastics and generating new types of **biofuels** and medicines. But they have a negative side – destroying crops and **wiping out** trees such as the ash and the elm.

英国邱园的科学总监凯西·威利斯说，忽略真菌的重要性会给我们带来危险。真菌有分解塑料和创造新生物燃料及药品种类的潜能。但它也有负面影响，即破坏庄稼、摧毁如白蜡树和橡树等树木。

1. 词汇表

nutrients	营养物质
vital	至关重要的
overlooked	被忽视、被忽略
curious	奇异的，不同寻常的
organisms	有机体
evaluated	被评估
Red List	世界自然保护联盟濒危物种红色名录
at our peril	给我们带来危险
breaking down	分解
biofuels	生物燃料
wiping out	摧毁

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. According to the report, why have some types of fungi not been discovered?

2. How many types of fungi might exist in the World?

3. True or false? *More species of fungi have been identified as being at risk of extinction than species of plants and animals.*

4. According to the report, what are some of the possible benefits of fungi?

3. 答案

1. According to the report, why have some types of fungi not been discovered?

Many types of fungi are hidden away in the soil, or invisible to the naked eye.

2. How many types of fungi might exist in the World?

DNA studies suggest there maybe four million different fungi in the World.

3. True or false? *More species of fungi have been identified as being at risk of extinction than species of plants and animals.*

False. Only about 50 species have been evaluated for the extinction Red List compared with thousands of plants and animals.

4. According to the report, what are some of the possible benefits of fungi?

Fungi have potential for breaking down plastics and generating new types of biofuels and medicines.