

THE UNEXPLAINED FILES  
BOOK NINETEEN

---



# CRYPTIDS

## CREATURES SCIENCE HAS YET TO EXPLAIN

LEGENDS, SIGHTINGS AND THE SEARCH FOR  
ANIMALS THAT MAY STILL BE HIDING IN  
THE WILD



---

Alden M. Corvale

**THE UNEXPLAINED FILES**

**BOOK NINETEEN**

# **Cryptids: Creatures Science Has Yet to Explain**

*Legends, Sightings and the Search for Animals That May Still Be  
Hiding in the Wild*

**ALDEN M. CORVALE**

Copyright © 2026 Alden M. Corvale. All rights reserved.

# Contents

1. What Is a Cryptid?
2. Folklore, Memory and Unknown Animals
3. Cryptozoology and the Scientific Method
4. The Evidence Ladder
5. Why Known Animals Become Monsters
6. Bigfoot and Sasquatch
7. The Patterson-Gimlin Film
8. The Yeti of the Himalaya
9. Orang Pendek
10. The Yowie
11. Mapinguari and the Amazon
12. Mokele-mbembe
13. The Chupacabra
14. The Jersey Devil
15. Mothman
16. Dogman and Modern Humanoid Lore
17. The Thylacine: Extinct or Still Hiding?
18. Loch Ness
19. Lake Monsters Around the World
20. Sea Serpents and the Oarfish
21. The Kraken and the Giant Squid
22. Megalodon Survival Claims
23. Thunderbirds and Giant Birds
24. The Mongolian Death Worm
25. The Coelacanth: A Real Lazarus Species
26. The Okapi: Rumor Becomes Zoology
27. The Saola: The Asian Unicorn
28. New Species Are Still Being Found
29. eDNA, Camera Traps and the New Search
30. What Would Prove a Cryptid?
- Special Dossier I - How to Investigate a Cryptid Claim
- Special Dossier II - When Cryptids Become Animals
- Appendices

Selected Sources and Further Reading

About the Author

# Preface

Cryptids occupy an unusual borderland between zoology and folklore. The word is often used for creatures reported by witnesses but not accepted as established species: Bigfoot in North America, the Yeti in the Himalaya, unknown lake animals, surviving thylacines, and a long list of regional beings whose stories may be ancient or very modern. Some claims are almost certainly mistakes. Some are hoaxes. Some are cultural traditions that should never have been reduced to a zoological guessing game. And, occasionally, the history of science reminds us that large animals can remain unknown to outsiders for surprisingly long periods.

This book does not assume that every famous cryptid is a hidden animal. It asks a harder and more interesting question: what kind of evidence would allow us to tell the difference? A photograph is not a specimen. A footprint can be informative, but it can also be manufactured. Eyewitness testimony may be sincere while perception is mistaken. DNA can be decisive only when its origin and chain of custody are secure.

The search therefore becomes a lesson in how knowledge is built. We will follow legends through forests, mountains, lakes and deep oceans, then compare them with animals that science really did discover after years of rumor or invisibility. The goal is not to kill mystery. It is to make mystery earn its place.

# What Is a Cryptid?

A cryptid is not simply an animal that is rare. In popular use, the term describes a creature whose existence is claimed but has not been accepted by mainstream zoology. That category can include several very different things: an unknown species, a supposedly extinct species reported alive, an unusually large version of a known animal, a folkloric being interpreted literally, or an outright invention.

This wide definition creates confusion. A scientifically undescribed frog found in a remote cloud forest is not usually called a cryptid once researchers have a specimen. Bigfoot remains a cryptid because no universally accepted body, bone, tissue sample or unambiguous genetic sequence has established such a species. The thylacine occupies another category: it unquestionably existed, but modern survival claims remain unconfirmed.

Cryptids therefore tell us as much about evidence as they do about animals. The real dividing line is not whether a story sounds strange. It is whether multiple independent forms of reliable evidence converge on the same biological explanation.

### Evidence Check

**KNOWN:** Cryptid is an informal cultural term, not a formal taxonomic rank.

**PLAUSIBLE:** Some cryptid reports could involve rare, misidentified or undiscovered animals.

**UNPROVEN:** A report alone does not establish a new species.