

# Opium-eating wallabies get high, make crop circles

## 沙袋鼠吃鴉片搞high 踏出麥田圈

Wallabies are getting **“as high as a kite”** on opium in Australian poppy fields and flattening crops as they hop round in circles, it was reported.

The **marsupials**, which look like small kangaroos, have been getting into medical opium crops in the southern island state of Tasmania and chewing on the plant's intoxicating heads, state officials said.

“We have a problem with wallabies entering poppy fields, getting as high as a kite and going around in circles,” state attorney-general Lara Giddings told a parliamentary estimates hearing.

“Then they crash. We see crop circles in the poppy industry from wallabies that are high,” local media reported Ms Giddings as saying.

Tasmania is the world's largest producer of legally-grown opium for the pharmaceutical market, with about 500 farms supplying approximately 50 percent of the raw material for morphine and other opiate drugs.

**Livestock** and other animals, such as deer and sheep, which eat the plants had also been seen acting “weird,” industry spokesman Rick Rockliff said.

“There have been many stories about sheep that have eaten some of the poppies after **harvesting** and they all walk around in circles,” he said.

(AFP)



報導指出，澳洲有一群沙袋鼠跑進罌粟田吃了鴉片後「飄飄欲仙」，在田裡繞圈跳躍，踏平了作物。

澳洲南部塔斯馬尼亞省的官員表示，島上這群看似小型袋鼠的有袋動物一直跑進藥用鴉片田，嚼食該植物會引起興奮的花冠部分。

該省檢察長拉蕊·吉丁絲在一場議院聽證會上表示：「有沙袋鼠闖入罌粟田，食用罌粟花後興奮地繞圈跳行。」

「接著牠們接連倒地。我們在罌粟田中看到這群興奮的沙袋鼠造成的麥田圈。」

塔斯馬尼亞是全球最大的合法藥用鴉片生產地，島上約五百座農場供應了全球約半數的嗎啡和其他鎮靜劑原料。

藥用鴉片產業發言人瑞克·羅克里夫說，食用了罌粟的家畜和其他動物（如鹿和綿羊）也都出現這種「怪異」的情況。

他說：「有關綿羊吃到一些收成的罌粟花後，開始繞圈轉的傳聞一直不少。」

(法新社/翻譯：袁星慶)

Top: Under the watch of US armed forces, Afghan men harvest opium in a poppy field in a village in the Golestan district of Farah province on May 5, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Left: In this undated photo provided by Wirrimbirra Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, a red neck wallaby stands in an enclosure on the grounds of the sanctuary in Bargo, Australia.

PHOTO: AP

上圖：五月五日，在美軍的武裝戒護之下，阿富汗男子在法拉省高斯坦區一座村莊的罌粟花田中收割鴉片。

照片：路透社

左圖：在這張未註明日期的、由維倫貝拉動物保護區提供的照片中，一隻紅頸沙袋鼠站在澳洲巴爾格保育區的圍欄內。

照片：美聯社

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **marsupial** /mar'sju:piəl/ n.

有袋動物 (you3 dai4 dong4 wu4)

例：Most marsupials are native to Australia, but a small number can be found in Asia. (大部分的有袋動物都原生於澳洲，不過在亞洲也可發現一小部份。)

2. **livestock** /'laɪv,stak/ n.

家畜 (jia1 chu4)

例：The livestock market has barely been affected by the recent economic downturn. (肉品市場幾乎沒有受到近期經濟衰退的影響。)

3. **harvest** /'hɑ:vɪst/ v.

收割 (shou1 ge1)

例：The crops were harvested after a dry summer, resulting in a low yield. (經歷夏旱後收割的農作物產量不高。)

### IDIOM POINT 重要片語

as high as a kite

飄飄欲仙

Somebody who is **as high as a kite** is intoxicated, either on alcohol or drugs. In the article the wallabies were intoxicated after eating the poppy heads.

Examples: “According to the police, both the thieves were **as high as kites** when they perpetrated the crime,” or “Eugene got into a serious road accident last night. I heard he was **as high as a kite** at the time.”

說某人「as high as a kite」，就表示此人受酒精或藥物影響變得異常興奮。文章中提到，這些沙袋鼠吃了罌粟花冠後變得異常興奮。

例如：「根據警方表示，這兩名竊賊犯案時都處於異常興奮的狀態，或是「尤金昨晚發生了非常嚴重的車禍，我聽說他當時醉得飄飄然」。