



Slug-eating dare sparks Australia health alarm 澳男生食鼻涕蟲 感染腦膜炎病危

Australian health authorities warned people against eating raw slugs after a man who reportedly **ingested** one as a dare became critically ill with a rare form of meningitis.

New South Wales health officials issued the warning following media reports that a 21-year-old man had been **hospitalized** with "rat lung worm" meningitis after a prank in which he swallowed a garden slug.

Normally found in Asia and the Pacific islands, the parasite was carried by snails and slugs which had eaten the feces of infected rodents, and cases in Australia were rare, said **communicable** diseases chief Jeremy McAnulty.

"In the past, this sometimes has happened after a person has been dared to eat a slug or snail," McAnulty said in a public health alert.

"You should not eat raw slugs or snails and other animals, and ensure that you wash your hands after touching them."

Most infected people would only suffer mild, short-lived symptoms, but McAnulty said some could fall seriously ill.

"Even if infected, most people recover fully without treatment. However, it can sometimes cause severe meningitis," he said.

Because humans were not the natural host of the **parasite**, McAnulty said it eventually died without treatment and could not be passed from person to person. (AFP)

一位澳洲人近日疑似與人打賭生食鼻涕蟲，導致感染一種罕見的腦膜炎，且病情嚴重，澳洲衛生當局提醒人們切勿仿效。

在媒體報導後，新南威爾斯衛生官員發布報告，表示一位二十一歲的年輕人因為開玩笑而吞食花園中的鼻涕蟲，進而感染「大鼠肺腺蟲」腦膜炎住院。

澳洲傳染病官員傑瑞米·麥克·安勞蒂表示，這類寄生蟲常見於亞洲與太平洋島嶼，通常寄宿於蝸牛與鼻涕蟲身上，而這些蝸牛與鼻涕蟲通常吃過遭感染的齧齒動物排泄物。

麥克·安勞蒂於公開衛生宣導場合表示：「過去人們吃了鼻涕蟲或蝸牛後經常發生這種事情。」

「你不應該生食鼻涕蟲或蝸牛以及其它動物，而且觸摸這些生

物後必須確實洗手。」

麥克·安勞蒂表示，大多數人症狀只會短暫出現，也不會很激烈，但有些人就會病得很嚴重。

他說：「即使受到感染後，大多數人不需要治療即可完全康復。但有時還是會造成腦膜炎。」

麥克·安勞蒂表示，由於人類並不是這種寄生蟲的原宿主，所以沒有治療的話，寄生蟲最後還是會死掉，也不會因此傳染給別人。

(法新社 / 翻譯：吳岱璽)

This undated handout photo received from conservation group World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia on April 22, 2010 shows a long-tailed slug, *Ibycus rachelae*.

PHOTO: AFP

四月二十二日，這張照片所拍攝的是長尾蝸蝓，由世界野生動物基金會馬來西亞分部提供。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. ingest /ɪnˈdʒɛst/ v.

食入 (shì2 rù4)

例：There's a ban on selling cattle that have ingested the contaminated food.
(有個禁令禁止販賣吃了受到感染飼料的牛。)

2. hospitalize /ˈhɒspɪtəˈlaɪz/ v.

住院 (zhù4 yuán4)

例：The patient was hospitalized following the accident.
(病人在意外之後住院治療。)

3. communicable /kəˈmjuːnɪkəbl/ adj.

可傳染的 (kě3 chuān2 rān3 de5)

例：Communicable diseases are the biggest strain on the health care system during the winter months.
(傳染病在冬天給醫療保險制度造成最大的壓力。)

4. parasite /ˈpærəˈsaɪt/ n.

寄生蟲 (jī4 shēng1 chōng2)

例：Many parasites cause no discernable harm to their hosts.
(許多寄生蟲對於寄宿主都不會造成明顯損害。)