**Zoology: Evidence of dragon resurgence**

* Nature
* Zoology

**Embargo**

* London: Wednesday 01 April 2015 00:01 (BST)
* New York: Tuesday 31 March 2015 19:01 (EDT)
* Tokyo: Wednesday 01 April 2015 08:01 (JST)
* Sydney: Wednesday 01 April 2015 10:01 (AEDT)

**Please visit** [**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April\_Fools%27\_Day**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools%27_Day)**before reading this press release.**  
  
The existence of dragons and their probable re-emergence in the near future are detailed in a News & Views article published online in *Nature* on the 1st April 2015. The article identifies a number of factors that are likely to trigger the resurgence of these creatures, including the global economic downturn, policy changes and inaction on climate change.

Andrew J Hamilton, Robert M May and Edward K Waters describe documents uncovered in the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library, attributed to the monk Godfrey of Exmouth, which offer evidence of the impact of dragons over past millennia. They also detail further work that reveals that dragons were particularly prolific in the medieval times, due to a high abundance of food (knights), unusually warm temperatures and a high availability of nesting material (silver and gold). However, according to the authors, a decline in temperature and food availability triggered a long-lasting hibernation period in the various dragon species, beginning around the start of the fifteenth century.

The authors describe a number of key events over the past few decades that are likely to lead to the resurgence of dragons. The rise in ‘quantitative thieving’, the process by which failing economic policies are bolstered by the removal of the dragons’ valuable nesting materials, alongside sluggish action on global warming and the restoration of knighthoods in Australia are all identified as factors that would encourage dragons to renounce hibernation. They conclude by warning that climatic conditions are rapidly reaching an optimum for breeding dragons and recommend further research into fire-retardant material and the avoidance of honorific titles.

**Article and author details**

* **Here be dragons**

**Corresponding Authors**

Andrew Hamilton

University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia

Email: [andrewjh@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:andrewjh@unimelb.edu.au)

Edward Waters

University of Notre Dame Australia, Freemantle, Australia

Email: [edward.waters@nd.edu.au](mailto:edward.waters@nd.edu.au)

**DOI**

10.1038/520042a

**Online paper\***

<http://nature.com/articles/doi:10.1038/520042a>

\* Please link to the article in online versions of your report (the URL will go live after the embargo ends).