

## Some Like It Hot; Some Like It Hotter

In a **far-flung** region of northeastern India, people like it **spicy**. Women cook with the local [chili](#), [naga jolokia](#), **on a daily basis**, adding it to sauces or serving it raw with the evening meal. As chili is one of the world's most-used **ingredients**, you might find nothing unusual about it. But these are no ordinary chilies. These are the hottest, the spiciest, the **fieriest** chilies on the planet!

印度东北部偏远地区的人们很喜欢吃辣。家庭主妇每天料理时都会使用一种称为「断魂椒」的当地辣椒，把它们加进酱汁中，或是配晚餐直接生吃。你可能不觉得这有什么稀奇，毕竟辣椒是世界上最常见的食材之一。但是断魂椒可不是普通的辣椒，它可是世界上最呛、最辣、最炽烈的辣椒！

Search on YouTube for the naga jolokia, **a.k.a.** “the ghost chili,” and you’ll see what happens when a “**chili-head**” dares to **devour** this particular pepper. One brave – or foolish – man, in obvious pain, manages to **splutter**: “It feels like I’ve **ingested** a flame!” Thirty minutes later, he’s still in **agony**.

只要在 YouTube 上搜寻又称作「印度鬼椒」的断魂椒，你就能见识到那些胆敢吞下这种特别辣椒的嗜辣老饕下场如何。一个勇敢（或者说愚蠢）的男士很明显地在极大的痛苦之中，断断续续地挤出了一句话：「我彷彿吞下了一团火！」三十分钟过后他还在痛苦的折磨当中。

But how hot is this chili pepper really? The [Scoville scale](#) was designed precisely to measure the spicy heat of chilies, so let’s **put this in perspective**. While a [bell pepper](#) measures 0 Scoville units. [Tabasco sauce](#) is 2,500 units, and a [facing heaven pepper](#) is reported to be 270,000 units. But according to the [Guinness Book of Records](#), the naga jolokia is more than 1,000,000 Scoville units!

但是这种辣椒究竟有多辣呢？让我们比较一下便能判断。史高维尔量表是专门设计用来精确测量辣椒辣度的一种量表。甜椒的辣度是 0 史高维尔单位，塔巴斯科辣椒酱的辣度是 2,500 单位。据报导，朝天椒的辣度是 270,000 单位。但根据金氏世界纪录，断魂椒的史高维尔单位超过一百万！

So, we probably won’t be dipping our dumplings into ghost chili sauce anytime soon. However, this **pungent** pepper has other uses. Some **swear by** its **medicinal** properties, claiming it speeds up the metabolism and cures stomach **complaints**. In addition, scientists have recently used the chili in a non-lethal hand **grenade** which could be used by police, or by women as a defensive device. It’s even being used to **deter** wildlife from entering populated areas. Even for **ferocious** wild animals, the naga jolokia is just too hot to handle.

所以近期内我们大概不会以断魂椒做为水饺沾酱。但是这种呛人辣椒有别的用途。有人宣称这种辣椒有特别的疗效，可以促进新陈代谢与治疗胃病。此外，科学家最近用这种辣椒制成非致命性手榴弹供警方使用，或是给妇女们用作防身武器。断魂椒甚至还用来驱离野生动物，防止牠们闯进人类居住的区域。就连凶猛的野生动物面对断魂椒都不敢招架。

— by Alice Davis

## Vocabulary

**far-flung** [ˈfɑːr ˈflʌŋ] adj. 遥远的; 广布的

**spicy** [ˈspaɪsi] adj. 辛辣的

**chili** [ˈtʃɪli] n. 红番椒

**ingredient** [ɪnˈɡrɪdiənt] (烹调的) 原料

**fiery** [ˈfaɪəri] adj. 激烈的

**chili-head** n. 爱吃辣椒的人 (slang) Someone who enjoys eating chili peppers.

**devour** [dɪˈvaʊr] v. 狼吞虎咽; 吞食

**splutter** [ˈsplʌtə] v. 急促而慌乱地说话 (尤因生气或吃惊)

**ingest** [ɪnˈdʒɛst] v. 摄取 (食物); 咽下

**agony** [ˈæɡəni] n. 极度痛苦

**Scoville scale** 史高维尔指标

**bell pepper** 灯笼椒

**Guinness Book of Records** 吉尼斯世界纪录

**pungent** [ˈpʌndʒənt] adj. 强烈的, 刺激性的, 刺鼻的

**medicinal** [məˈdɪsnəl] adj. 药用的; 有疗效的

**complaint** [kəmˈpleɪnt] n. 疾病, 身体不适 a mild ailment

**grenade** [grɪˈneɪd] n. 手榴弹

**deter** [dɪˈtɜː] v. 威慑住, 吓住

**ferocious** [fəˈrɒʃəs] adj. 凶猛的; 残忍的

## Idiom

**on a daily basis** : 每日 every day

**a.k.a.** : 又名, 亦称 also known as

**put something in perspective** : 正确合理地检视某物 to compare with something similar to give a clearer, more accurate idea

**swear by** : 极其信赖 to announce one's full faith and trust in someone or something