Dragons Were Real—In Evolution

Ancient myths mirror real ecological shifts in prehistoric ecosystems.

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THE DATA

50 years ago

Time since first recorded myth-ecology link

The idea that mythical creatures like dragons may have roots in real paleontological events was first proposed in the 1970s.

This article revisits a long-standing hypothesis: that legendary beasts such as dragons, griffins, and winged serpents may not be pure fiction, but cultural reflections of fossil discoveries and ecological disruptions. The study re-analyzes the timing of fossil records and the emergence of myth traditions, finding a striking correlation in regions where large reptilian remains were exposed.

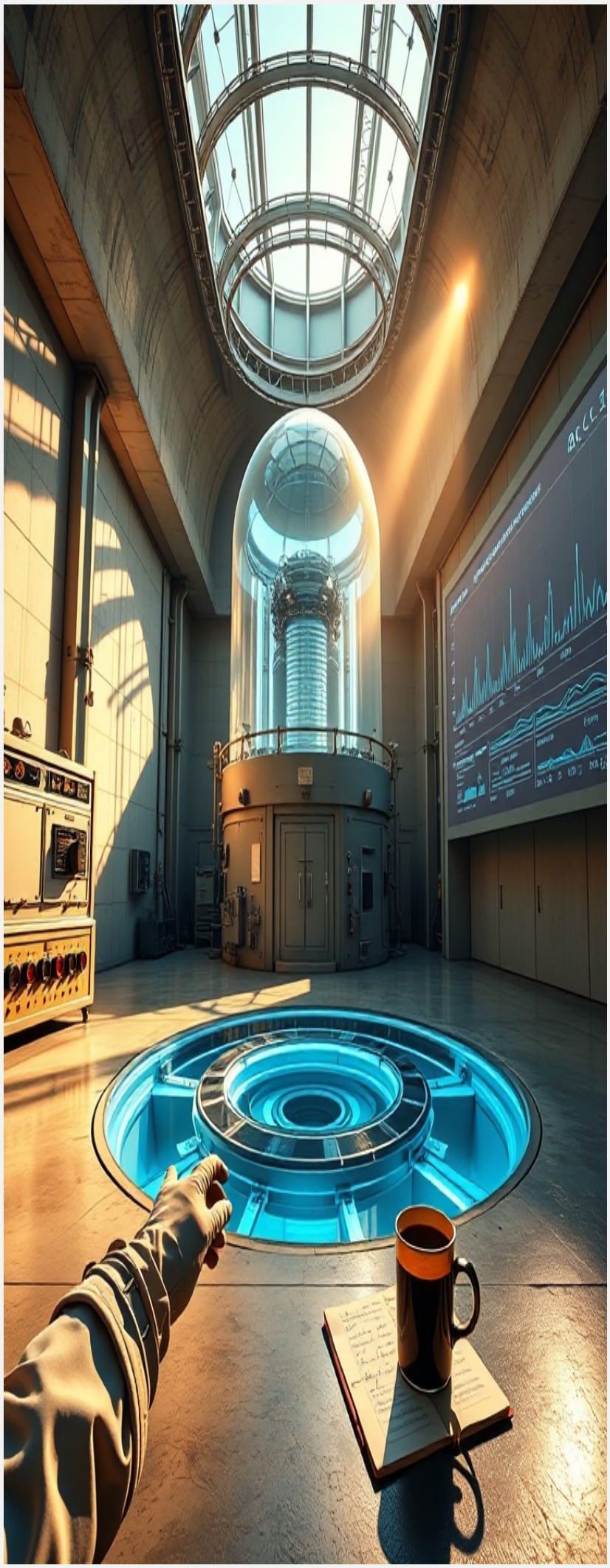


Source: Nature · Published November 03, 2026
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-03277-8

01

AI Can Decode Myth from Fossil Data

For the AI in Nuclear Energy Council, this is a paradigm shift: if AI can detect cultural patterns in prehistoric data, it can also detect subtle, non-linear signals in reactor monitoring logs—patterns that may signal latent safety risks before they manifest.



02

Myth as Early Risk Signal

This suggests a critical need for AI to not just detect anomalies, but to simulate the cultural and cognitive frameworks that might interpret them—especially in high-stakes domains like nuclear safety. AI must not only predict failure, but understand how human perception might delay or distort the response.

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