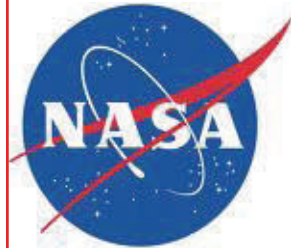




Newly Hatched News: Triops from Space



by Allison Goldberg

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In 2003, Triops, Inc., the Diapause Research Foundation, and 500,000 of our lab-raised Triops embryos embarked on an educational mission with NASA, a mission to promote the idea of suspended animation in space and to stimulate the minds of current and future scientists the world over.

NASA integrated the 500,000 embryos at Johnson Space Center in 2005. STS121 flew the embryos to the Space Station on July 4, 2006, and on December 22, 2006, STS116 brought them back to earth.

NASA is returning 300,000 of the donated embryos to us. Some are destined to become “ambassadors of possibility,” while most will return to the labs at the Diapause Research Foundation. The DRF is a research foundation newly established by Triassic Triops creator Eugene Hull, PhD. The DRF will research the mechanisms at work in diapause and, once isolated, their applications in the treatments and cures of a variety of diseases and ailments, including cancer and aging, including beauty creams.

By studying the cosmic Triops, we hope to learn the effects of a zero-gravity environment on diapausing life. Perhaps these well-traveled embryos hold clues to the method by which humans will finally be able to travel to distant planets.

A portion of Triops, Inc.’s profits go directly to the Diapause Research Foundation.



STS121: From left are astronauts Stephanie D. Wilson, Michael E. Fossum, both mission specialists; Steven W. Lindsey, commander; Piers J. Sellers, mission specialist; Mark E. Kelly, pilot; European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Thomas Reiter of Germany; and Lisa M. Nowak, both mission specialists. Photo: NASA



STS121 blasts off on July 4, 2006 with 500,000 Triops embryos in tow. The Triops remained in the Space Station for 6 months and will now be studied by the DRF.



STS116: from left (front row) are astronauts Bill Oefelein, pilot; Joan Higginbotham, Nicholas Patrick and ESA astronaut Thomas Reiter, mission specialists; (back row) astronauts Mark Polansky, commander; Sunita Williams, Expedition 14 flight engineer; ESA astronaut Christen Fuglesang and Robert Curbeam, mission specialists. Photo: NASA