Aldabra white-throated rail: evolving back into existence

written by Saarani Vengadesen | 13/10/2021

Recent scientific research has revealed a fascinating case of "iterative evolution" involving the Aldabra white-throated rail bird. Previously thought to have gone extinct approximately 100,000 years ago due to rising sea levels, this flightless bird, believed to have evolved from an ancestral rail species that colonised Aldabra Island, has surprised scientists by re-emerging from the same ancestral lineage, exhibiting similar traits and characteristics, despite its previous extinction. This phenomenon sheds light on the complex dynamics of evolution and adaptation in response to changing environments.