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Does the Loch Ness Monster's mapping class group even have a finite-index subgroup?

The study of mapping class groups of infinite-type surfaces (so called big mapping class groups) has enjoyed a surge of interest in the past decade or so. Remarkably, the seemingly innocent question in the title of this talk remains stubbornly unresolved.

I will motivate the question, introducing the relevant results from the study of infinite-type surfaces, with the aim of convincing you it's a compelling question! I will not assume familiarity with big mapping class groups.

I have thought about the question on and off for the past few years, and I invite, with open arms, any ideas anyone may have!