

nature

THE INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE



*Genome sequence
of the slowest
evolving vertebrate
— the elephant shark*

PAGE 174

LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

COLLEGE SAFETY

VIOLENCE ON THE CAMPUS

*A scientific approach to
stemming the tide*

PAGE 150

HISTORY OF SCIENCE

KEEP CALM AND CALCULATE

*How war shaped physics
research for a generation*

PAGE 153

ELECTROCHEMISTRY

TOWARDS A BETTER BATTERY

*Flow-battery technology
shows potential*

PAGES 163 & 195

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Vol. 505, No. 7482



9 770028 083095

CONTENTS

9 January 2014 / Vol 505 / Issue No 7482

THIS WEEK

EDITORIALS

131 DRUG DEVELOPMENT

Data sharing will pay dividends

The pharmaceutical industry needs to stay on track over transparency

131 VIOLENCE

Risk management

Threat assessments can help protect employees at their place of work

132 WAR

Conflict of interest

Science can have a mutually beneficial relationship with war



WORLD VIEW

133 This was no Antarctic pleasure cruise

Chris Turney

There was a clear scientific basis for polar expedition

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

134 SELECTIONS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

In vivo glia-to-neuron switch / Handy graphene / Dietary fibre link to asthma / Chemotherapy-provoked resistance / Sinkhole prediction

SEVEN DAYS

136 THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Cannabis goes on sale in Colorado / China joins ivory-crushing campaign / Alan Turing gets royal pardon / Asteroid followed from space to landfall

CAREERS

249 EQUALITY

Standing out

There's plenty of advice for LGBT scientists contemplating a career in research — if you know where to look

251 TURNING POINT

Huffington Post blogger Eleni Antoniadou sees artificial skin as an immediate goal in tissue engineering

NATUREJOBS ADVERTISING FEATURE

Spotlight on Kobe

NEWS IN FOCUS



139 REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Leaked documents reinforce doubts over Italian foundation's stem-cell treatments

141 PUBLISHING

Open-access library for physics starts up with reduced capacity

142 PHARMACEUTICALS

World Health Organization's bid to tackle orphan diseases draws fire

143 EARTH SCIENCE

Mini-satellites provide near real-time images of Earth

144 RESEARCH FUNDING

China overtakes Europe in percentage spend on R&D

FEATURES

146 COMPUTER SCIENCE

The learning machines

By sifting through massive amounts of data, computers are edging towards artificial intelligence



WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Safety catch

Universities are testing out threat-reduction strategies **PAGE 150**

COMMENT

PHYSICS

Shut up & calculate!

Wartime working and funding had an enduring influence on physics, says David Kaiser **PAGE 153**



BOOKS & ARTS

156 MILITARY SCIENCE

The evolving science of war

Sharon Weinberger

157 PSYCHOLOGY

Feeling the fear

David Adam

158 ORNITHOLOGY

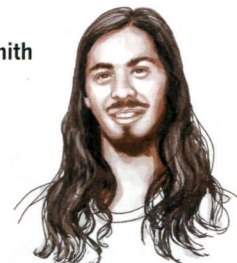
Under their wing

Ben Sheldon

159 Q&A

Tinnitus tunesmith

Non-sufferers can learn from Daniel Fishkin's series of installations, *Composing the Tinnitus Suites*



CORRESPONDENCE

160 Towards effective general ecosystem models / Self-referential citation should not count / Himalayan network needs support / Pollinator decline estimated

FUTURES

254 Okami

Grace Tang

CONTENTS

9 January 2014 / Vol 505 / Issue No 7482

RESEARCH

NEW ONLINE

161 Papers published this week at nature.com

NEWS & VIEWS

162 FORUM: DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Tethered wings

Drosophila wings develop even when Wingless protein cannot spread
Ginés Morata; Gary Struhl

SEE ARTICLE P.180

163 ELECTROCHEMISTRY

Metal-free energy storage

A non-metallic electroactive material for flow batteries
Grigori L Soloveichik SEE LETTER P.195

165 THERAPEUTICS

Detective work on drug dosage

A device that tracks drug levels in blood in real time
Richard M Crooks

166 QUANTUM PHYSICS

An atomic SQUID

An analogue of a superconducting device based on ultracold atoms
Charles A Sackett

167 HIV

Ringside views

Binding of Vif or Vpx mediates ubiquitination of restriction factors
Michael H Malim

SEE LETTERS P.229 & P.234

ARTICLES

169 AGEING Diversity of ageing across the tree of life

O R Jones et al.

MATERIALS

Face facts

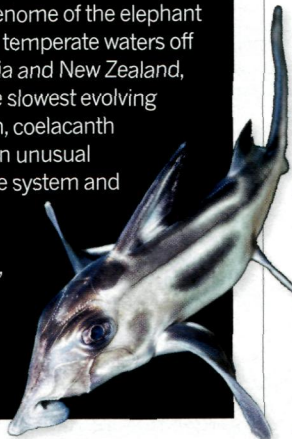
'Face-to-face' transfer produces device-ready graphite sheets PAGE 190



ON THE COVER

Shark alert

Analysis of the genome of the elephant shark, a native of temperate waters off southern Australia and New Zealand, shows it to be the slowest evolving vertebrate known, coelacanth included. It has an unusual adaptive immune system and lacks genes for calcium-binding phosphoproteins, in line with the absence of bone in cartilaginous fish. PAGE 174



174 GENOMICS Elephant shark genome provides unique insights into gnathostome evolution

B Venkatesh et al.

180 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY Patterning and growth control by membrane-tethered Wingless

C Alexandre, A Baena-Lopez & J-P Vincent SEE N&V P.162

LETTERS

186 ASTROPHYSICS The rarity of dust in metal-poor galaxies

D B Fisher et al.

190 MATERIALS Face-to-face transfer of wafer-scale graphene films

L Gao et al.

195 ELECTROCHEMISTRY A metal-free organic-inorganic aqueous flow battery

B Huskinson et al. SEE N&V P. 163

199 CHEMISTRY Merging allylic carbon-hydrogen and selective carbon-carbon bond activation

A Masarwa et al.

204 OCEANOGRAPHY Primitive layered gabbros from fast-spreading lower oceanic crust

K M Gillis et al.

208 GENETICS The effects of genetic variation on gene expression

dynamics during development
M Francesconi & B Lehner

212 CANCER HMGA2 functions as a competing endogenous RNA to promote lung cancer progression

M S Kumar et al.

218 IMMUNOLOGY Mycobacteria manipulate macrophage recruitment through coordinated use of membrane lipids

C J Cambier et al.

223 NEUROSCIENCE Transcranial amelioration of inflammation and cell death after brain injury

T L Roth et al.

229 STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY Structural basis for hijacking CBF- β and CUL5 E3 ligase complex by HIV-1 Vif

Y Guo et al. SEE N&V P.167

234 STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY Structural basis of lentiviral subversion of a cellular protein degradation pathway

D Schwefel et al. SEE N&V P.167

239 BIOTECHNOLOGY Efficient ethanol production from brown macroalgae sugars by a synthetic yeast platform

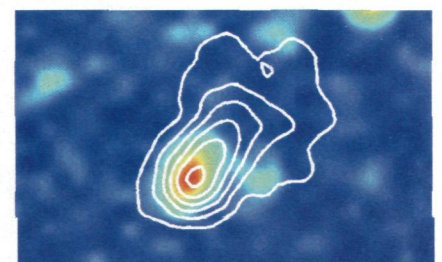
M Enquist-Newman et al.

244 STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY De novo protein crystal structure determination from X-ray free-electron laser data

T R M Barends et al.

248 CORRIGENDUM The zebrafish reference genome sequence and its relationship to the human genome

K Howe et al.



ASTROPHYSICS

Dust buster

Local observations suggest distant galaxies are not so dusty. PAGE 186