

STEMazing NEWS



IT'S A PLIMP!

That's correct, a hybrid between a blimp and a plane—a plimp! These new aircraft are designed to take-off like a helicopter and then fly like a plane at 86 miles per hour. You and your 9 friends and all of your luggage can go with you on trips over 1000 miles on a tank of gas. You will just need to fork-over about \$3 million and have somewhere to park it! See and read more at: <https://www.livescience.com/64186-plane-blimp-plimp-aircraft.html>



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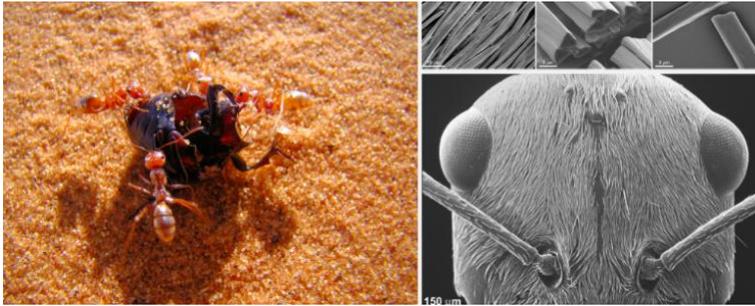
Feathered Dinosaur!

A pterosaur discovered in China shows distinct traces of fossilized feathers. Different types of feathers were found like filaments, tufts, and down. This is similar to modern birds who have specialized feathers for different functions. Paleontologists are starting to believe that many dinosaurs had feathers—not just pterosaurs. I guess we will just have to change the way we draw dinosaurs in the future! See and read more at: <https://www.livescience.com/64324-pterosaurs-had-feathers.html>



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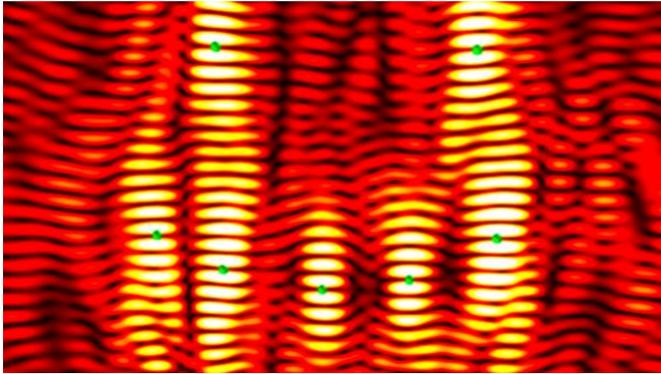


ANT AIR CONDITIONING!

The Sahara Desert is hot—really hot. It can reach 117 degrees Fahrenheit and even higher on surface of the sand where temperatures can soar. One creature is as cool as a cucumber on these hot days. The Saharan Silver Ants avoid the heat with hair. Fine, prism-shaped hairs surround the body. These hairs take in light and heat radiation and then reflect it perfectly so that no heat is absorbed. See and read more at: <https://asknature.org/strategy/hair-helps-cool-the-body/#.XB6mYBNKhmA>

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Sound Levitation!

Imagine you are at a rock concert between two banks of speakers. The band starts up and you are lifted off the ground and manipulated by the guitar riffing away. That is just about what scientists have achieved with an array of tiny speakers and high frequency sound. By manipulating the frequency and the timing, pockets of air/vacuum can be created and moved drawing particles in pre-programmed directions. See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/these-sound-waves-can-levitate-and-move-particles-new-ways>



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Spinal Cord Fix?

Thousands of people are unable to move or walk due to spinal cord injuries. When the spinal cord nerves are severed or crushed, the electrical conduit is shut off. Leg muscles cannot move because they have no nerve impulse commands from the brain.

Experimenters have applied electrical impulses to the spinal cord and nerves in the severed areas and have found that with a small number of patients they have been able to make some kinds of connections to those nerves in the hips and legs. After intensive physical therapy and shocks, some patients can walk! See and read more at:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/spinal-cord-paralysis-top-science-stories-2018-yir>



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