

STEMazing NEWS



Dino Mummy!

After six years of painstaking chipping and scraping, Royal Tyrrell Museum technician, Mark Mitchell, revealed the most well-preserved dinosaur yet found. Accidentally unearthed by a heavy equipment operator in Canada, the nodosaur (similar to an Ankylosaurus), has skin and armor plating that is perfectly mummified.

Paleontologists were so impressed with Mr. Mitchell's long work with the specimen that they named the beast for him: *Borealopelta markmitchelli*. See and read more at: <https://curiosity.com/topics/this-mummified-dinosaur-is-almost-perfectly-preserved-curiosity/>



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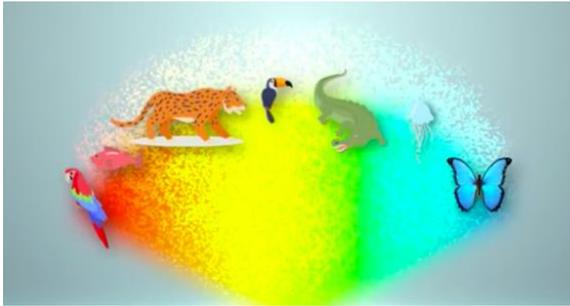
“You First” Apes!

What is your first reaction when there is someone in need? Do you give them your lunch money? Share your sandwich? Take the heat to protect some one? Maybe if you thought about it a while you might change your mind. Sound like human behavior? Actually, biologists have found that apes show many of these same human-like behaviors. It may be clear why humans are often automatically selfless, but why would apes cooperate as a first instinct? See and read more at: <http://news.janegoodall.org/2018/12/04/research-shows-chimpanzees-cooperate-first-think-later/?bblinkid=249EEBC9-9214-4EB5-A284-60034D4CA4FD&bbemailid=obf86191-aa3c-42ab-b3ff-41f9f027b80e&bbejrid=cd6385b0-9468-48ab-9491-b36031f7f122>



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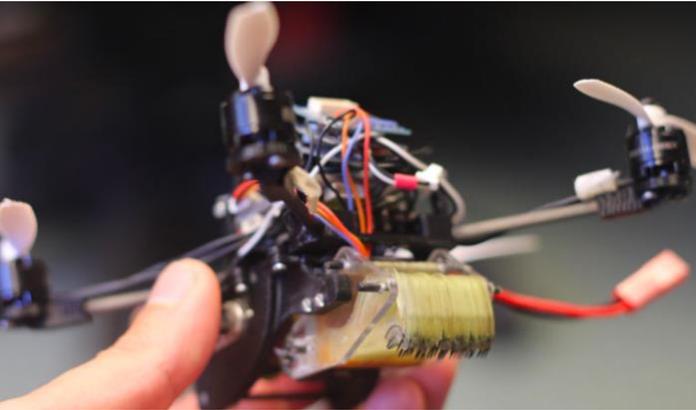
So Few--Natural Blue!

We may have a rainbow of colors in nature, but blue is one that is not very common. The pigmentation of animals usually reflects the chemical composition in the skin or surface. Each color corresponds to a different chemical. Reds, yellows, orange, brown, black all have particular chemical signatures. Blue, as a chemical pigment, is extremely rare. It follows a very different set of chemical rules. You say, “But I’ve seen blue birds and blue butterflies!” Yes, but this is just trickery—you are only seeing what the animal wants you to see. See the video at: <https://curiosity.com/topics/why-is-the-color-blue-so-rare-in-nature-curiosity/>

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Heavy Mini Drone!

Drones usually cannot lift more than their own body weight. This makes their utility for something like search and rescue problematic because even if they found a stranded person for example, they couldn't lift them out of their predicament. Now, however, a mighty mini drone has the capability of lifting as much as four times its own weight. The clever device uses grappling hooks inspired by gecko feet to grab hold of an object with a wire cable. Once attached, the drone spools-off the attachment wire until it lands and anchors on a safe perch. When secure, it winches the package to safety. See and read more at: <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/new-palm-sized-drone-mini-mighty>



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Bat Proof Moth!

Bats find their food through echolocation. They send out a sound wave that hits another object. The sound wave bounces off and the bat receives the signal with highly adapted ears. The bat brain computes the distance, size and edibility of the object and then scoops it up by progressively echolocating the prey. Some moths are immune, however. Bats just can't seem to find some species. The protected moths have specialized scales, and fur-like growths that absorb sound waves. Like modern warships designed to avoid enemy radar, these moths are truly clandestine! See and read more at:
<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/sound-absorbent-wings-and-fur-help-some-moths-evade-bats>



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