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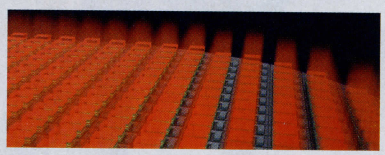

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Move over, DNA

Ancient proteins found in fossils are helping to fill in the gaps in early human history PAGE 433

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Solve local smog

Find the most dangerous pollutants in each place and reduce them first, say Xiangdong Li and colleagues PAGE 437

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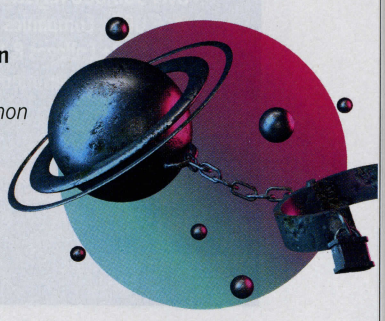

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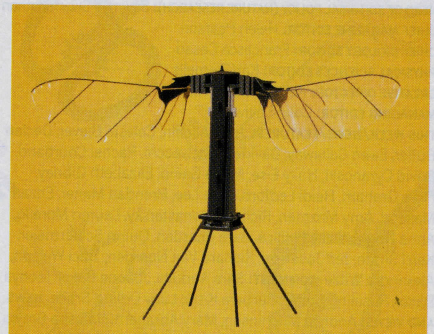


ON THE COVER

Flying solo

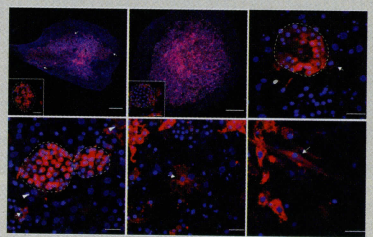
Flying a heavier-than-air object is energetically expensive, particularly at very small scales, because of the need to integrate lightweight components for control and propulsion. Noah Jafferis, Farrell Helbling and colleagues introduce RoboBee X-Wing, an insect-sized aerial vehicle capable of untethered flight with a thrust efficiency matching that of similarly sized insects. PAGES 448 & 491

LETTERS

EVOLUTION

Stem cells

Early animal cells transitioned between multiple states. PAGE 519



COVER IMAGE: ADAM DETOUR FOR *NATURE*