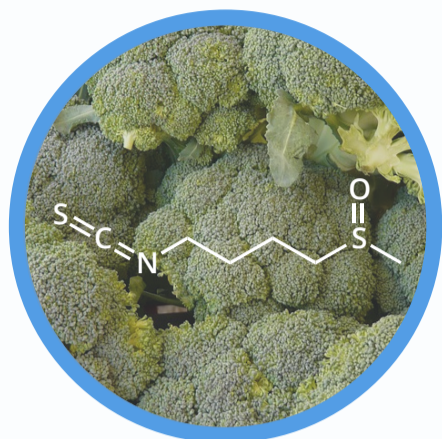


THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

12TH OCTOBER - 18TH OCTOBER 2014

BROCCOLI COMPOUND IMPROVES AUTISM BEHAVIOUR

An 18 week clinical trial has found that daily doses of sulforaphane, a compound extracted from broccoli sprouts, improved behaviour in a group of patients on the autistic spectrum. Larger studies are now required to point towards future drug development.



FLUORESCENT DNA USED TO DETECT METALS IN WATER

US researchers have developed a DNA-based system which allows effective detection of metals in water. The test distinguishes between 57 different metals, giving a unique colour response for each. It could be used to detect toxic metal contamination of water.



NEW TOXOPLASMOSIS DIAGNOSTIC TEST DEVELOPED

A test using glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) glycan antigens has been used to diagnose toxoplasmosis. The infection can be transmitted to humans by cats, whose faeces can contain the parasite. The new detection method is faster & more reliable.



FUNGI FED ON CHEERIOS PRODUCE BIOFILM BLOCKERS

Biofilms are layers of bacterial cells hard to destroy with antibiotics. Fungal metabolites can help, but getting fungi to produce them consistently is difficult. By cultivating fungi in bags of cheerios, researchers were able to produce potential anti-biofilm compounds.



NEW LITHIUM BATTERY DESIGN IMPROVES SAFETY

Lithium rechargeable batteries can occasionally fail in a manner that leads to fire and explosion. A new smart battery which has been developed adds a sensing terminal, which allows detection of imminent shorting of the battery, helping improve safety.



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References & links to papers: <http://goo.gl/oyNIK6>

