

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

9TH NOVEMBER - 15TH NOVEMBER 2014

CHEMICAL ESSENCE OF BLOOD'S ODOUR PINPOINTED

Swedish researchers have isolated the compound in blood that gives it a faintly metallic odour. They also found that when the compound, trans-4,5-epoxy-(E)-2-decenal, was smeared on wood, wild dogs were equally attracted to it compared to raw meat.



EBOLA DRUG TRIALS WILL COMMENCE IN DECEMBER

Three potential ebola treatments will be trialled in West Africa, including the two antiviral drugs brincidofovir and favipiravir. The other treatment that will be trialled is a serum made from components of the blood of disease survivors.



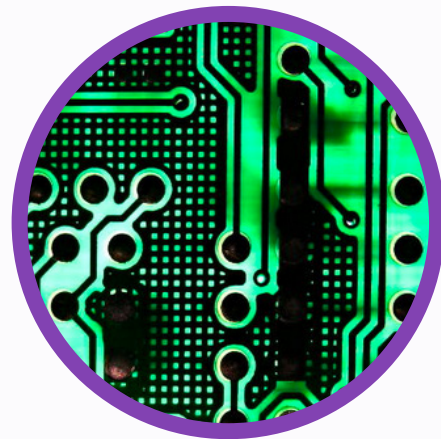
POLYMER NETWORK COULD CONSERVE HISTORICAL ARTEFACTS

British scientists have developed a polymer network, composed of the natural polymer chitosan and the molecule cucurbit[8]uril, which can help provide structural stability in damaged wood and simultaneously prevent further degradation.



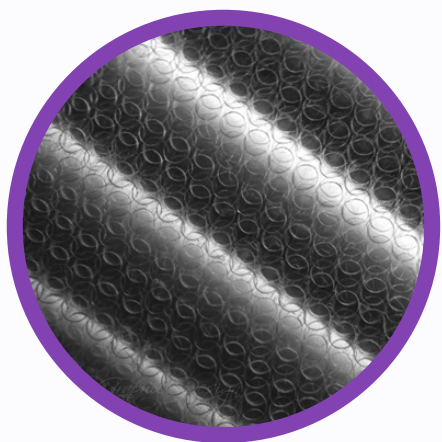
ELECTRICAL IMPLANTS THAT DISSOLVE IN THE BODY

US researchers have recently tested dissolvable electronics, made from ultra-thin silicon ribbons combined with a number of other components, in rats, noting good performance for a week. It could lead to implantable devices that don't require surgery to remove.



CHIRAL COBALT CATALYST LEADS TO NEW POLYMER CLASS

Using a chiral cobalt catalyst, a team of US researchers have linked left and right-handed polymer chains to create the first of a new class of plastics. Its biodegradability and comparable melting point means it could eventually compete with polyethene & polypropene.



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