

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

4TH JANUARY - 10TH JANUARY 2015



A NEW ANTIBIOTIC - AND A NEW METHOD TO DISCOVER MORE

A novel technique to grow soil bacteria previously thought to be impossible to grow in lab conditions led to the production of a new antibiotic, teixobactin. The method could lead to the isolation of many more potential antibiotic compounds.

TESTOSTERONE INJECTIONS COULD SLOW PROSTATE CANCER

A study in 16 patients with untreatable prostate cancer found shots of testosterone could slow spread of the tumour. Testosterone usually stokes the cancer's growth, but the extra hormone could disrupt the cancer's DNA duplication. Further research is planned.



NATURE'S MISSING 'STRUCTURAL RED' COLOURS EXPLAINED

Non-pigment colours in nature are due to microstructures, but the colour red is oddly absent from these structures, as well as man-made versions. Scientists found this is due to back-scattering of blue light, and their research could help in full-colour e-readers.



IRON FROM UNDERWATER VOLCANOES DELAYED LIFE ON EARTH

The eruption of underwater volcanoes millions of years ago generated high levels of iron which were toxic to cyanobacteria, slowing their ability to generate oxygen, and hence delaying it reaching the levels at which animal life was able to commence.



FLEXIBLE POLYMER IMPLANTS HELP PARALYSED RATS

Flexible implants combining polymers & metals were implanted in paralysed rats, allowing them to move again independently. It could lead to the development of similar implants in humans for brain or spinal injuries. The implants can also be used to deliver drugs.



CREATED BY COMPOUND INTEREST  #TWIChem

Twitter: @compoundchem | Facebook: www.facebook.com/compoundchem

Links to articles & research papers: <http://goo.gl/dhQyzt>

