

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

26TH JUNE 2016 – 2ND JULY 2016

Links to articles & studies for the featured stories are provided at: <http://goo.gl/rI79Ba>



ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST HELIUM DEPOSITS UNEARTHED

A new helium source found in Tanzania is thought to be equal to seven times the amount used worldwide every year. The scientists that discovered it used a combination of seismic images and calculations. The discovery could ease helium shortages to a degree.



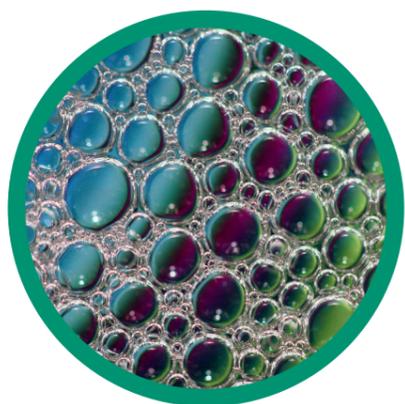
OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SCRAMBLES MARINE ORGANISM SENSES

New research has shown that ocean acidification interferes with the chemical signalling used by marine organisms. Shore crabs lost the ability to detect chemical cues that trigger egg ventilation in sea water at a pH of 7.7, the projected pH of sea water in 2100.



PORTABLE \$2 TEST DETECTS ZIKA IN PATIENT SALIVA

A new quick and low-cost test can determine the presence of Zika virus in a person by examining their saliva. The test is carried out in a portable cassette, and requires a saliva sample and water to be added. If Zika virus is present, a dye in the test turns blue after 40 minutes.



NANOPARTICLES HELP TO GET SHAMPOO OUT OF THE BOTTLE

Getting the last bit of shampoo out of the bottle can be a challenge. A coating developed by scientists helps make it easier. They used treated silica nanoparticles form tiny y-shaped structures inside the bottle, so the contents are repelled from the surface and slide out easily.



OLD POLYCARBONATE CDS RECYCLED INTO OTHER PLASTICS

Polycarbonate plastics are used to make things like CDs, but aren't easily recycled, so often end up in landfills. A new process depolymerises the plastic and converts it into a polyaryl ether sulfone, another type of plastic which has uses including medical tubing and fibre optics.

