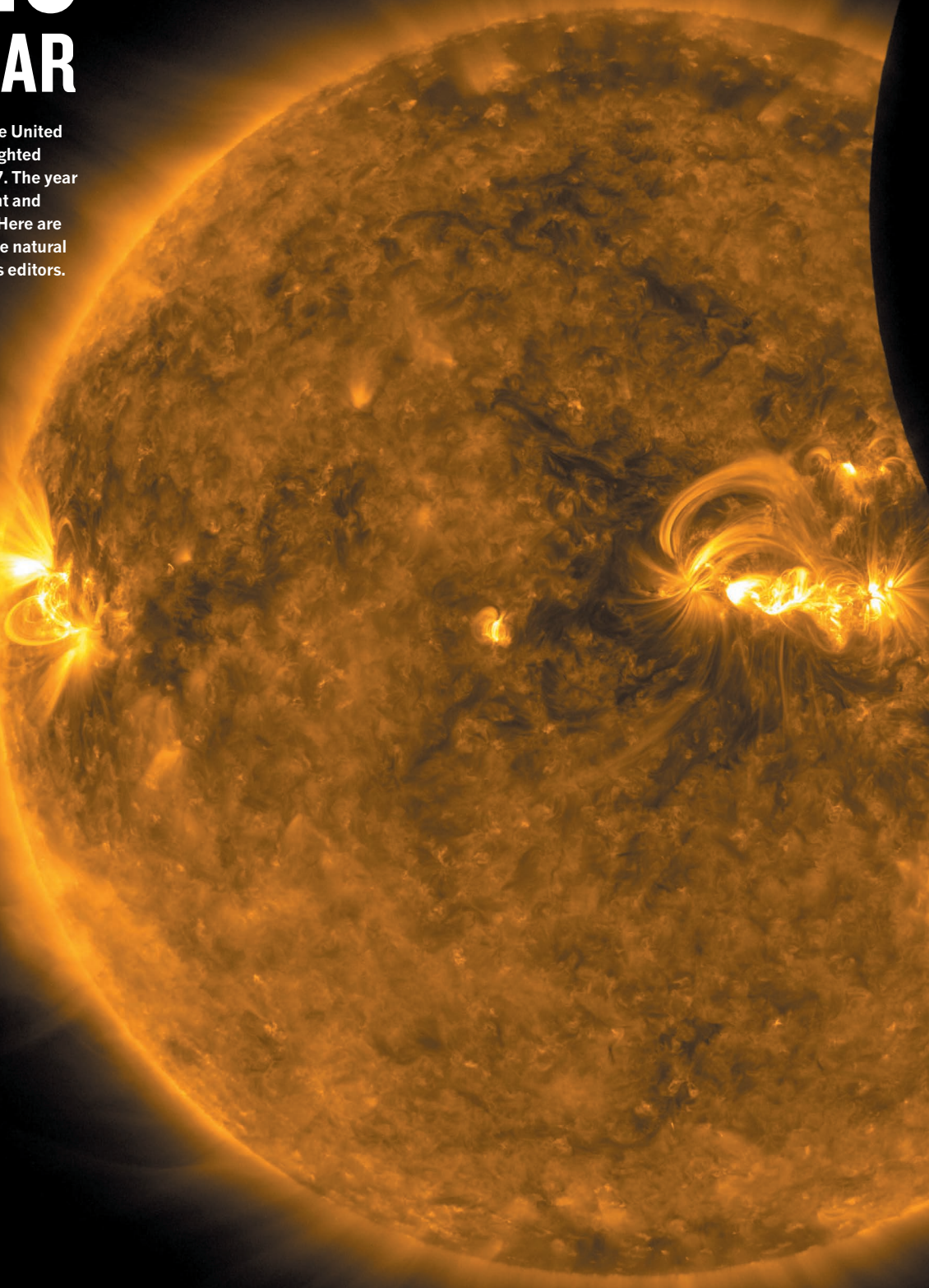


IMAGES OF THE YEAR

The spectacular eclipse that swept the United States dominated headlines as it delighted scientists and the public alike in 2017. The year also brought innovations in spaceflight and surprising insights into species past. Here are the striking shots from science and the natural world that caught the eyes of *Nature's* editors.

Images selected by *Nature's* art editors
Text by Nisha Gaiind

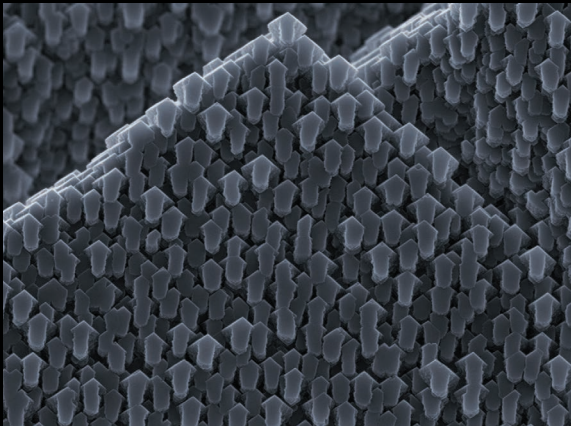
365 DAYS:
the year in science





WORM FROM HELL

This nightmarish creature is the pork tapeworm *Taenia solium*, captured at $\times 200$ magnification. The image was a finalist in Nikon's Small World photography competition.



THE ONLY WAY IS UP!

The arrow-shaped relief on this calcite crystal, imaged by a scanning electron microscope, is governed by a protein that binds to the crystal surface and patterns it as it grows.



UNDER THE LIGHT

This ultraviolet-light image by US photographer Craig Burrows reveals the hidden hues of an anemone flower.

BACK-SEAT OCTOPUS

This interspecies piggyback ride was caught by photographer Michael Hardie in the waters off Hawaii. The image was a finalist in the annual Smithsonian.com photo contest.



GROUND CONTROL

On the Norwegian island of Svalbard, low sun backlights an antenna that downloads data from the Joint Polar Satellite System-1. The craft launched in November as the first of a new set of US weather satellites.





SPARKS FLY

This tiny firework display was made by 'electrospinning', in which an electric charge draws fibres from a liquid.



FEARSOME FOSSIL

Meet *Saccorhytus coronarius*, a millimetre-scale fossil at least 529 million years old. The species, reported in January, might be the oldest known member of the deuterostomes, the animal group that includes vertebrates.

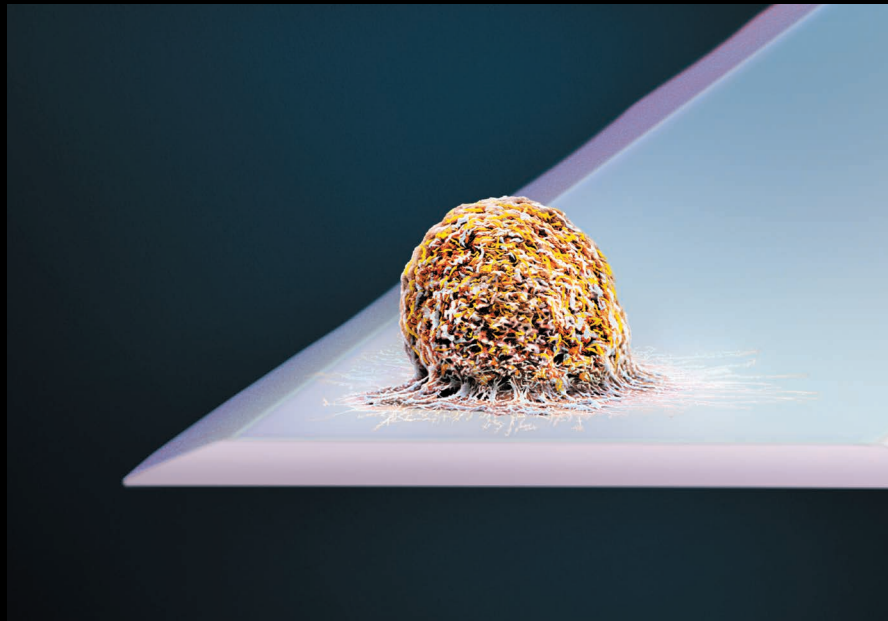
SEE-THROUGH PARENT

The eggs inside this pregnant 'glass frog' (*Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphyllum*) are clearly visible through its transparent belly.



A SINGLE CELL

What does a human cell weigh? In October, researchers in Switzerland unveiled this cantilever scale designed to detect minute fluctuations in a living cell's mass.



TOTAL ECLIPSE

North Americans gazed skywards in August, when the continental United States was treated to its first total solar eclipse in 99 years. This image of the Moon transiting across the Sun was taken by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory spacecraft in the extreme ultraviolet spectrum.



BACK TO EARTH

US firm SpaceX made strides with its reusable-rocket system. Here, a stage of the Falcon 9 rocket lands back on a ship in the Pacific Ocean in January, after delivering satellites into orbit — a now-routine procedure for the company.



ISOLATION ZONE

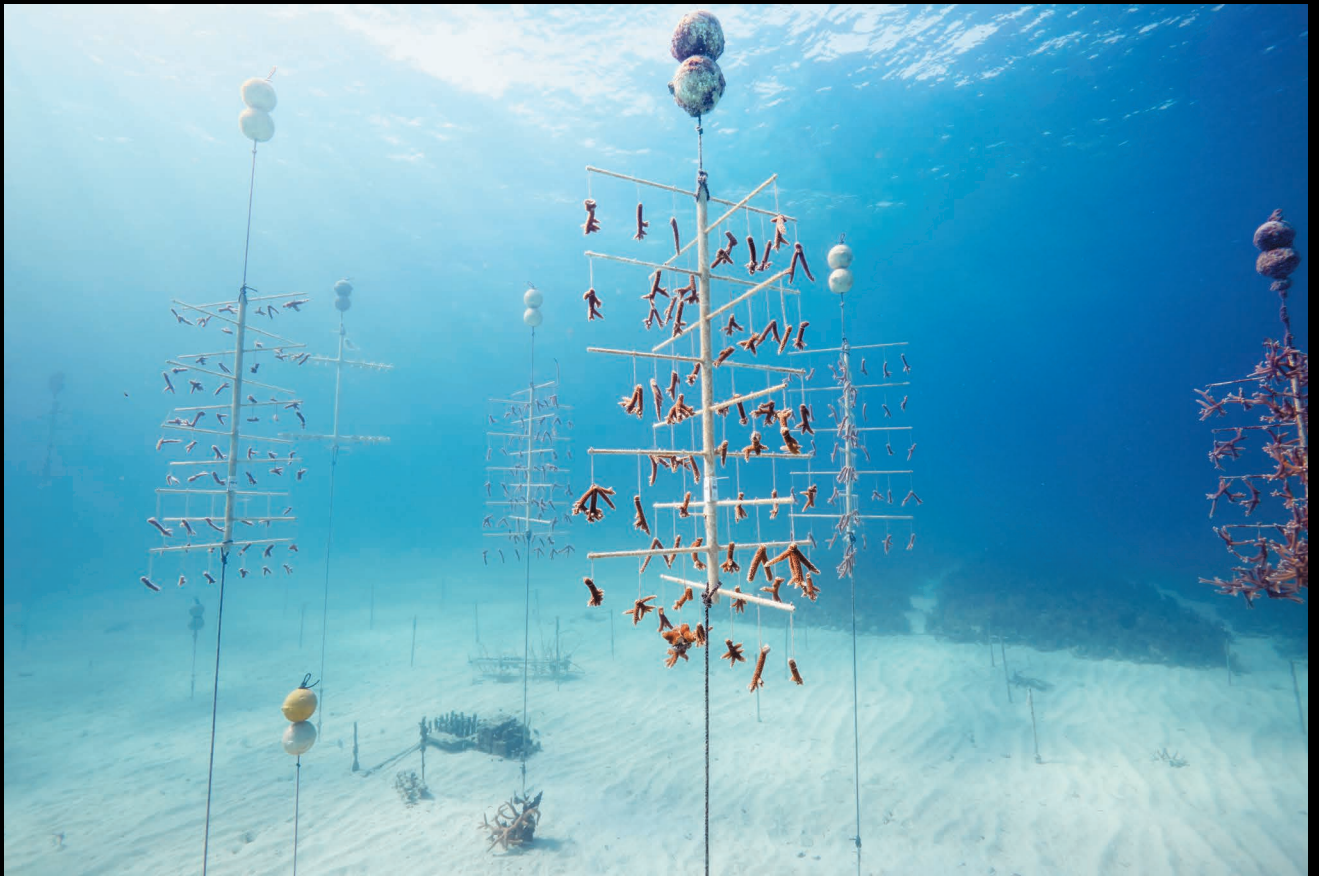
In May, volunteers were sealed into China's Lunar Palace 1 research facility in Beijing, designed to test life-support systems for a base on the Moon.

ECLIPSE: NASA/SDO; TAPEWORM: TERESA ZGODA/NIKON SMALL WORLD; CALCITE: DAVID GREEN/RPS IMAGES FOR SCIENCE; ANEMONIE: CRAIG BURROWS;
OCTOPUS: MICHAEL B. HARDIE/SMITHSONIAN; SVALBARD: REUBEN WU; ELECTROSPINNING: ROBERT LAMBERTS/PLANT AND FOOD RESEARCH/RPS IMAGES FOR SCIENCE; FOSSIL: JIAN HAN; FROG: JESSE DELIA, BOSTON
UNIV.; CELL: MARTIN OEGGERLI/MICRONAUTOCH/ETH ZURICH/UNIV. BASEL; FALCON 9: SPACEX; ISOLATION: JU HUANZONG/XINHUA; ABYSS: TOM ST. GEORGE/CATERS NEWS; CORAL: SPENCER LOWELL/TRUNK ARCHIVE



ORANGE ABYSS

Heavy rains and run-off from surrounding forests give this underwater cavern — the Cenote Carwash off Tulum on Mexico's Caribbean coast — its eerie tannic glow.



REEF RESTORATION

More than 400 coral 'trees' grow in this nursery off the coast of Tavernier, Florida. The set-up aims to nurture corals that in the wild are increasingly endangered by threats such as warming waters and ocean acidification.