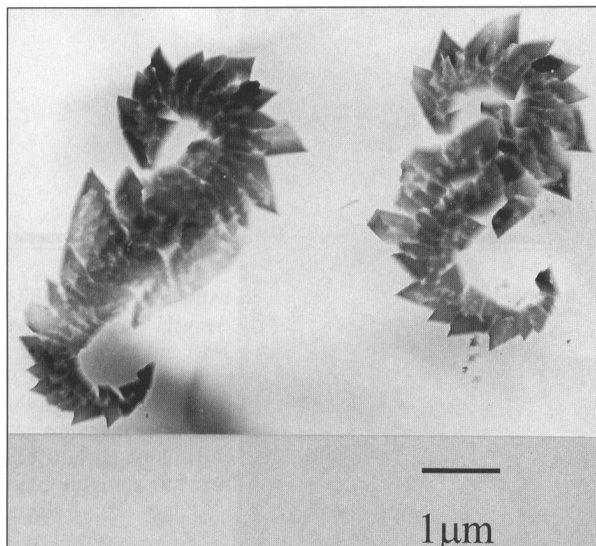


Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.



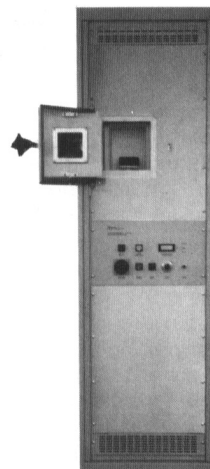
EDITOR'S CHOICE usually points out alternative "lay" interpretations of a figure's appearance. This nontechnical dimension is not usually anticipated by the figure's original authors. At least they don't admit it in print. This month's choice is an exception. The obvious sea-horse shape of the pattern is mentioned repeatedly by H.J. Gao, Z.Q. Xue, Q.D. Wu, and S. Pang (*J. Mater. Res.* 9 [1994] 2216-2218), perhaps because it is not really an added dimension at all. This is not simply a two-dimensional snapshot of three-dimensional sea horses. These sea horses are actually only 1.69 ± 0.07 -dimensional microcrystalline fractal sea horses swimming in an amorphous fullerene-TCNQ (i.e., C_{60} -tetracyanoquinodimethane) multilayer about 700 Å thick. Without the aid of the transmission electron microscope (TEM), such tiny organisms could not have been seen. Those of us who are skeptical of happy coincidences must find a more psychologically satisfying rationale that goes beyond the cluster-diffusion-limited-aggregation mechanism suggested by the authors to explain the procreation of this life form. Perhaps nature is simply reminding us that the TEM is the workhorse that caused a sea change in our microscopic understanding of materials. Others of us may not see bucking fullerene sea horses at all. These crystallites clearly nucleated on two backward letters S, also as noted by the authors. They are backward as if scrawled from under the film by the Substrate itself. Going to these lengths implies the Substrate is either having an identity crisis or is so proud of this film that it wants to advertise its contribution by signing it.

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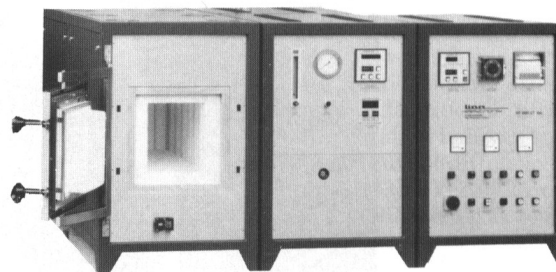


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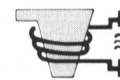


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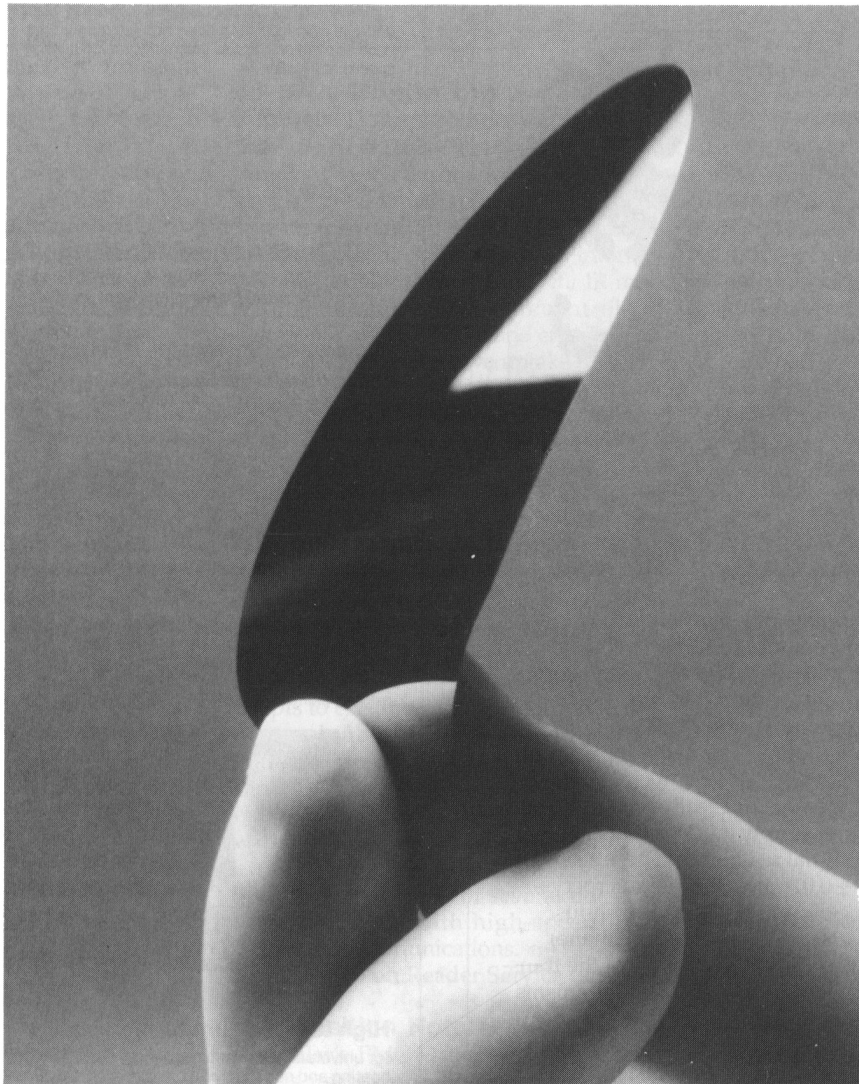
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