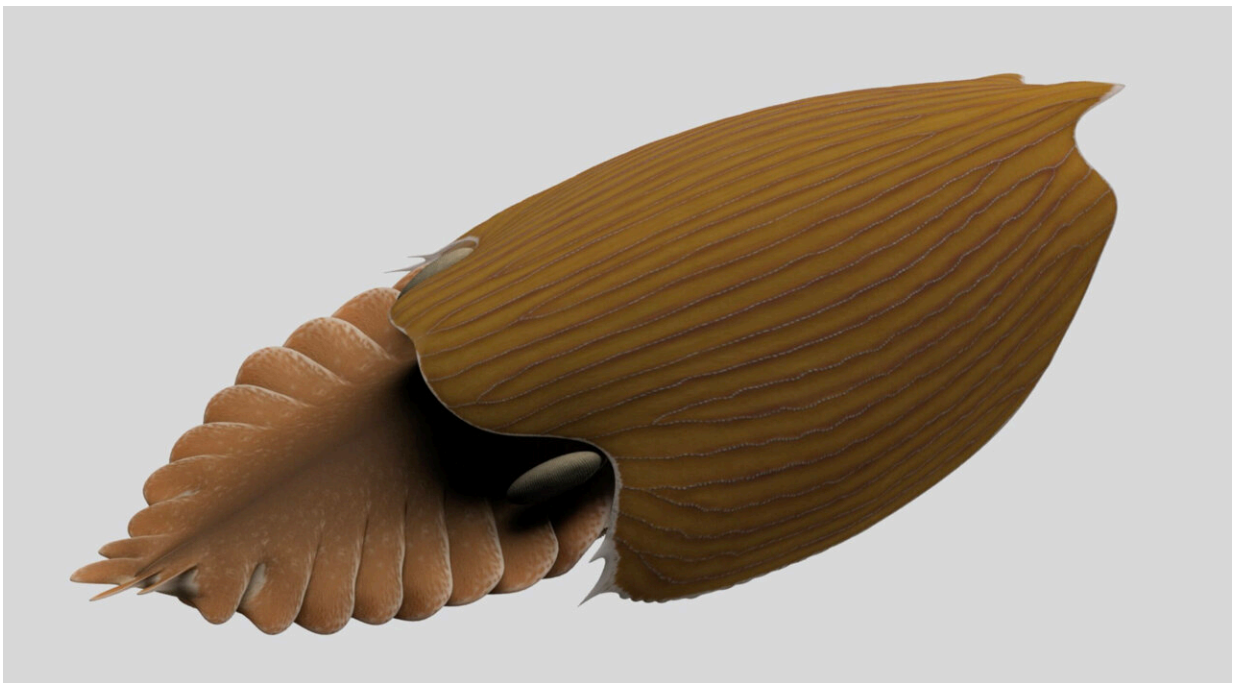


# Best of Last Week – Colorized Tasmanian tiger, shape-shifting animals, medications accumulating in the gut

September 13 2021, by Bob Yirka

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View of *Titanokorys gainesi* reconstruction. Credit: Lars Fields, © Royal Ontario Museum

It was a good week for scientists studying extinct creatures, as a team at Composite Films [offered a new look at the extinct Tasmanian tiger](#) by colorizing old film footage of the wolf-like thylacine, which was last seen over 85 years ago. Also, a team of paleontologists at the Royal

Ontario Museum announced that they had discovered the remains of [a huge new fossil species](#)—it was named *Titanokorys gainesi*, and is believed to have lived in the sea approximately a half-billion years ago. And [a prehistoric winged lizard was unearthed in Chile](#)—the pterosaur was the first of its kind ever found in the southern hemisphere.

In technology news, a team with members from The State University of New York at Albany, the State University of New York at Buffalo and Keya Medical found [a way to spot computer generated faces](#) by examining the subject's pupils. Also, a team of researchers at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, [realized gallium-nitride-based complementary logic integrated circuits](#), opening the door to ICs with wider bandgaps. And security researcher Mark Green announced that he had updated his [hacked lightning cables, called OMG cables, to allow them to record user keystrokes](#). Also, a team at Monash Energy Institute found that [a spoonful of sugar could open a path to longer-lasting lithium sulfur batteries](#), adding a glucose-based material to the positive electrode stabilized the sulfur.

In other news, an international collaboration led to the development of [a single-shot, room-temperature stable COVID-19 vaccine](#) that thus far has conferred lasting immunity against the disease. And bird researcher Sara Ryding with Deakin University in Australia found that [the warming climate is pushing animals to "shapeshift"](#), inducing development of longer legs and bigger beaks and ears.

And finally, if you take common medicines regularly, you may want to look at the work done by a team from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Germany and the Medical Research Council in the U.K. They found [that some common medications can accumulate in gut bacteria, resulting in reduced drug effectiveness and altering the gut microbiome](#).

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