

News

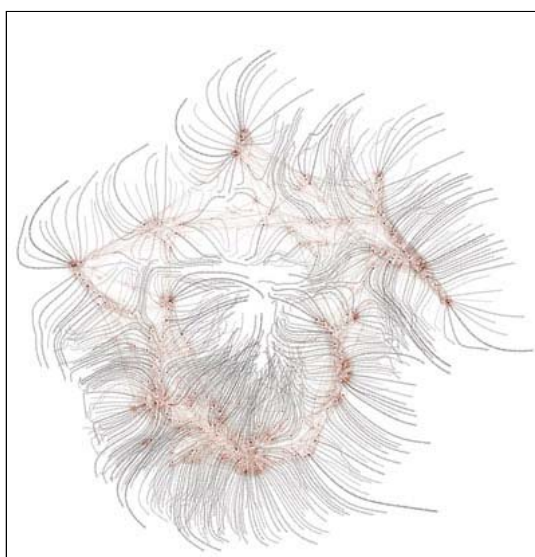
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2006 Gallery: Brilliant display

Emma Marris

From a jewel-like bird, rarer than any diamond, to the delicately poetic swirls generated inside aircraft engines, the pursuit of knowledge turns up its fair share of beauty. This issue, *Nature* wraps up the year with an arresting series of images from 2006. We've divided them into the art of the natural world, planet-scapes both domestic and extraterrestrial, and the splendour of modern technology. Just because something enhances our knowledge doesn't mean it can't also be bewitching.

A map of science



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We begin with all of science all at once, in this conceptual map of 800,000 published papers. The red circles are nodes of papers that cite one another. They are named with a string of phrases that relate to their fields, and are connected with lines of various heaviness and length, depending on the cross-linkages. Pure chemistry is at the end of the right-hand peninsula. Medicine is located roughly at the lower left, and physics is at the top.

Yariguies brush finch



B. HUERTAS/AP

Two or three new species of birds are found around the world every year, but not all are as spectacular as this Colombian specimen (*Atlapetes latinuchus yariguierum*), which was announced in June. The area in which it was found is now protected.

Jelly rocket