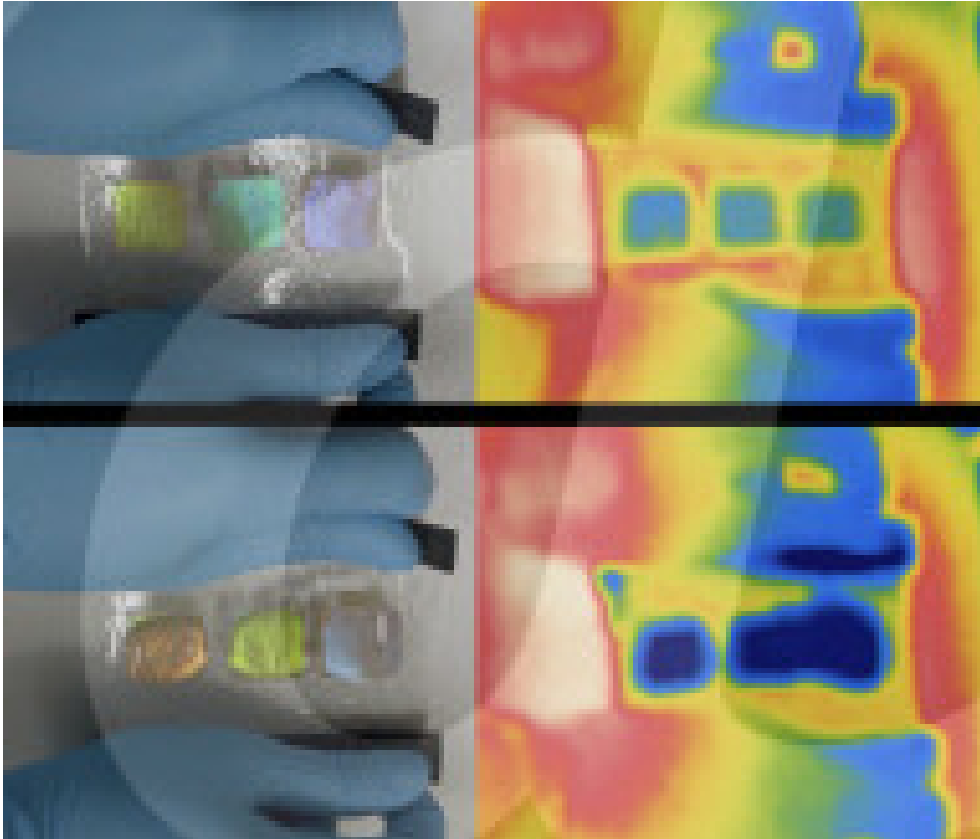


Squid-inspired camouflage for soldiers



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Squid-inspired camouflage for soldiers

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Camouflage 1

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See Ferrari pictures

Picture MUST credit: UC Irvine

Camouflage inspired by the colour changing skin of squids is being developed to help soldiers stay out of sight on the battlefield.

Boffins are developing a stretchable material that mimics the colour-shifting ability of the longfin inshore squid.

They say it could one day help troops slip past visual and thermal detection.

The project is being funded by the USA's defence research agency, DARPA.

It is a joint study by the University of California, Irvine and the US-based research centre, the Marine Biological Laboratory.

The longfin squid uses light-reflecting cells called iridophores to instantly shift between transparency and colour.

This natural survival tactic now forms the basis of the synthetic stealth material with potential military use.

Inside the cells, coils of a protein called reflectin act like natural mirrors, manipulating how light reflects off the squid's skin.

The researchers have captured the first 3D images of this nano-architecture revealing the intricate architecture.

OPS:Photos and thermal camera images of the squid-inspired composite materials changing appearance while being stretched (top) and soaked in water (bottom) both above a heated surface.

Picture supplied by Ferrari

(FOTO: DUKAS/FERRARI PRESS)

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