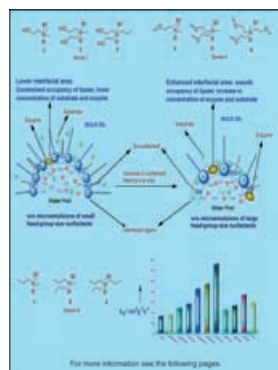
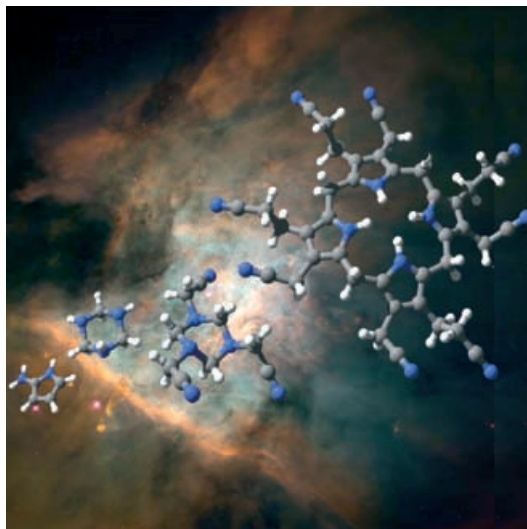


A mosaic of Orion's Great Nebula...

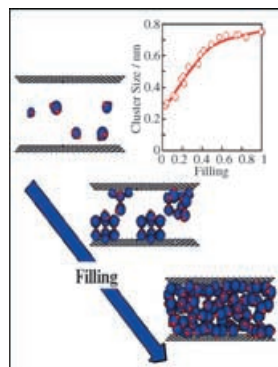
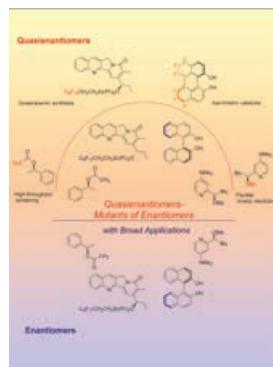
... (M42), a nearby starbirth region, is shown on the cover (Hubble space telescope; C. R. O'Dell (Vanderbilt University) and NASA). Dust grains covered by ice mantles are expected to be UV photoprocessed in the nebula, and in circumstellar regions during early phases of star formation. Experimental simulations revealed that precursors of biological cofactors, such as hexahydrotriazines, are constantly synthesized under these conditions. More details are given by G. M. Muñoz Caro et al. on page 4895 ff. Stéphane Le Saint at the University of Nice designed the picture.



Enzymology in Microemulsions

Enzymology in self-organized aggregates such as water-in-oil (w/o) microemulsions has been an area of interest for several decades, because of its potential biotechnological applications. In their Full Paper on page 4881 ff., P. K. Das et al. discuss the effect of the head-group size of the surfactant with respect to enzyme activity.

Who in their right mind would ever mix enantiopure molecules to make a racemate, after going to all the trouble to make them? This question is addressed in the Concept by D. P. Curran and Q. Zhang on page 4866 ff. A short history is provided, the terms are defined and illustrated, and recent applications of quasenantiomers, quasiracemates, and related species are reviewed.



Cluster Growth

In their Full Paper on page 4890 ff., K. Kaneko et al. describe the critical cluster size for water cluster growth and the molecular mechanism of the cluster growth in graphite nanopores.

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