

New Scientist

WEEKLY 7 June 2025

QUANTUM TEST
COULD REVEAL IF WE
HAVE FREE WILL

THE SURPRISING WAYS
CORPORATIONS DICTATE
YOUR HEALTH

UNLOCKING THE
SECRETS OF ANCIENT
HUMAN BRAINS

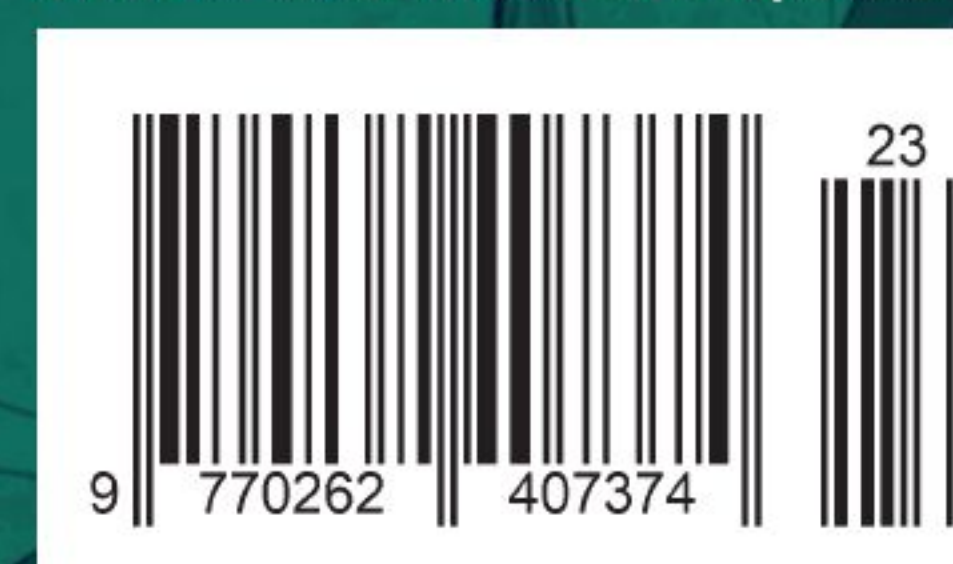
A NEW HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH

We thought five mass extinctions shaped our planet –
but maybe they never even happened

PLUS

ANCIENT WHALE BONE TOOLS / HOW TO SEE AROUND CORNERS
CHINA'S OTHER GREAT WALL / WILL SPACEX'S STARSHIP EVER WORK?

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Faulty forecasts

AI weather models may miss extreme weather events **p12**

Arctic explorers

Birds were nesting in the Arctic earlier than we thought **p15**

A medieval mystery

A woman in London had a very brutal execution **p17**

Ageing up

Sex, ethnicity and education affect how fast you age **p17**

Roll the dice

You can make fair dice from any shape you like **p19**



Space

A magnifying glass to the early universe

THE bright light at the centre of this image is galaxy cluster Abell S1063, which lies 4.5 billion light years from Earth. Photographed by the James Webb Space Telescope, this cluster is so massive that light from galaxies behind bends around it, creating the surrounding warped red arcs. This gravitational lensing lets the cluster act as a magnifying glass through which we can peer into the early days of the universe.

ESA/WEBB, NASA & CSA, H. ATEK, M. ZAMANI (ESA/WEBB)