

Images of the month: September 2014

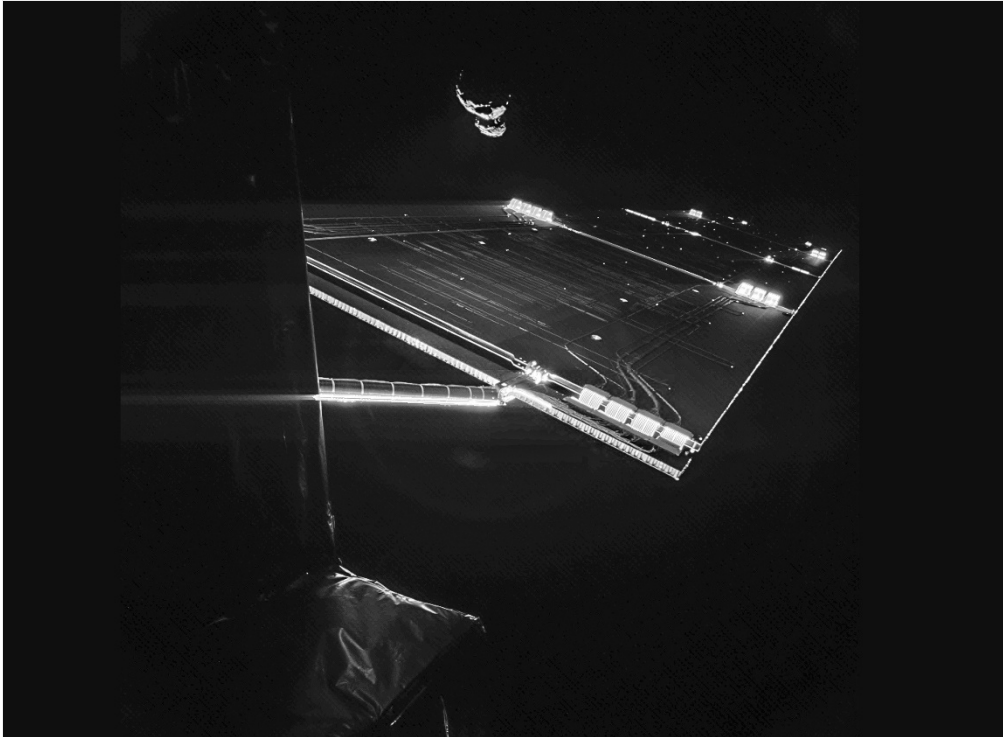
Pictures from the world of science, selected by *Nature's* art team.

Daniel Cressey

30 September 2014

Ants under attack, birds under threat, space selfies, reflective auroras, a whole lot of flame and much more feature in this month's *Nature* picture round-up.

Space selfie



ESA/Rosetta/Philae/CIVA

Selfies may sometimes be annoying on Earth, but there is a certain gravitas to one taken by a spacecraft on a mission. In this shot the European Space Agency's [Rosetta probe](#) is seen 50 kilometres from the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, which it is now orbiting.

Bárðarbunga blast



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Iceland's [Bárðarbunga](#) erupted on [29 August](#) after a swarm of seismic tremors had heralded trouble. The advance notice was a boon to volcanologists, who were able to draw up a metaphorical chair and make popcorn before observing the eruption in detail. "This is absolutely unique — we've never had anything like it," says Agust Gudmundsson, a geologist at Royal Holloway University of London.

Ant in parasitic peril

Bernardo Segura

Entomologist Bernardo Segura suggests that the parasitic fly shown here attacking an ant was attracted to alarm pheromones released during an ant war against a rival nest, as described in a paper Segura recently co-authored¹. Segura, who is at the University of Chile in Santiago, won a prize in the 2014 [BMC Ecology image competition](#) for this image.

Yosemite aflame



Darvin Atkeson/YosemiteLandscape.com

Wildfires such as this one encroaching on the popular Half Dome in Yosemite National Park earlier this month are an annual occurrence in California, a state now affected by an exceptional drought. This year's spectacular blazes forced the evacuation of hikers and rapid responses from firefighters.

Slideshow: Evolving to extinction



The moons align

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Space Science Institute

Three of Saturn's moons all came into simultaneous view of NASA's Cassini probe on 14 July. Tethys is the large white object in the centre; Hyperion is the sphere to its left; and Prometheus is the (relatively) tiny rock that appears to graze the giant planet's rings in the bottom of this shot.

Video: Dining out on squid

Deep Sea Dining

Hundreds of metres below the surface in the Norfolk Canyon, off the US east coast, these squid are hunting for food. But they are also being hunted. And where the red crab fails, the monkfish succeeds.

NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program

Slideshow: Aurora's astronomy award



Video: Laniakea

Laniakea: Our home supercluster

This *Nature Video* showcases the amazing supercluster of galaxies that includes the Milky Way, dubbed Laniakea — Hawaiian for 'immeasurable heaven'.

Nature | doi:10.1038/nature.2014.16043

References

1. Segura, B. & Brown, B. V. J. *Kansas Entomol. Soc.* **87**, 84–88 (2014).
2. Frishkoff, L. O. *et al. Science* **345**, 1343–1346 (2014).