Podcast: A complex eye in a single cell, hot lizards change sex, and robot morals

Nature's weekly audio round-up.

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The eye is a complex structure made of millions of specialized cells. Right? Not necessarily. Scientists have studied the origins of a complex eye — with the equivalent of a retina, lens, iris and cornea within a single-celled plankton. They found that the 'eye' is made of tiny subcellular components - with one piece stolen from a species of red alga¹. Hear author Greg Gavelis explain more on the show. Plus, teaching robots to behave ethically and the Australian lizard that uses genetics and temperature to determine the sex of its offspring². When the heat rises, boys become girls.

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References

- 1. Gavelis, G. et al. http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature14593 (2015).
- 2. Holleley, C. et al. Nature 523, 79-82 (2015).