

# The Hard Problem of Consciousness

Benjamin Stucky

# Consciousness

Latin: *con-*     *scire*  
          with        to know

„with knowledge“

# Consciousness

Latin: *con-* *scire*



κοῖέω

Greek: „to be aware“

# Consciousness

Latin: *con-* *scire*  
↓  
κοῖνω  
↓  
(s)kewh  
Proto-Indo-European:  
“to perceive”

Consciousness

Latin: knowledge

Greek: awareness

PIE: perception

# Consciousness

Definition throughout this course

Qualia



experience

# Consciousness

Definition throughout this course

Qualia

 **Felt** experience

„Wir sehen Farben,  
aber keine  
Wellenlängen.“

- C.G. Jung

# Qualia Senses



seeing

hearing

smell

taste

# Qualia Moods

disgust

surprise

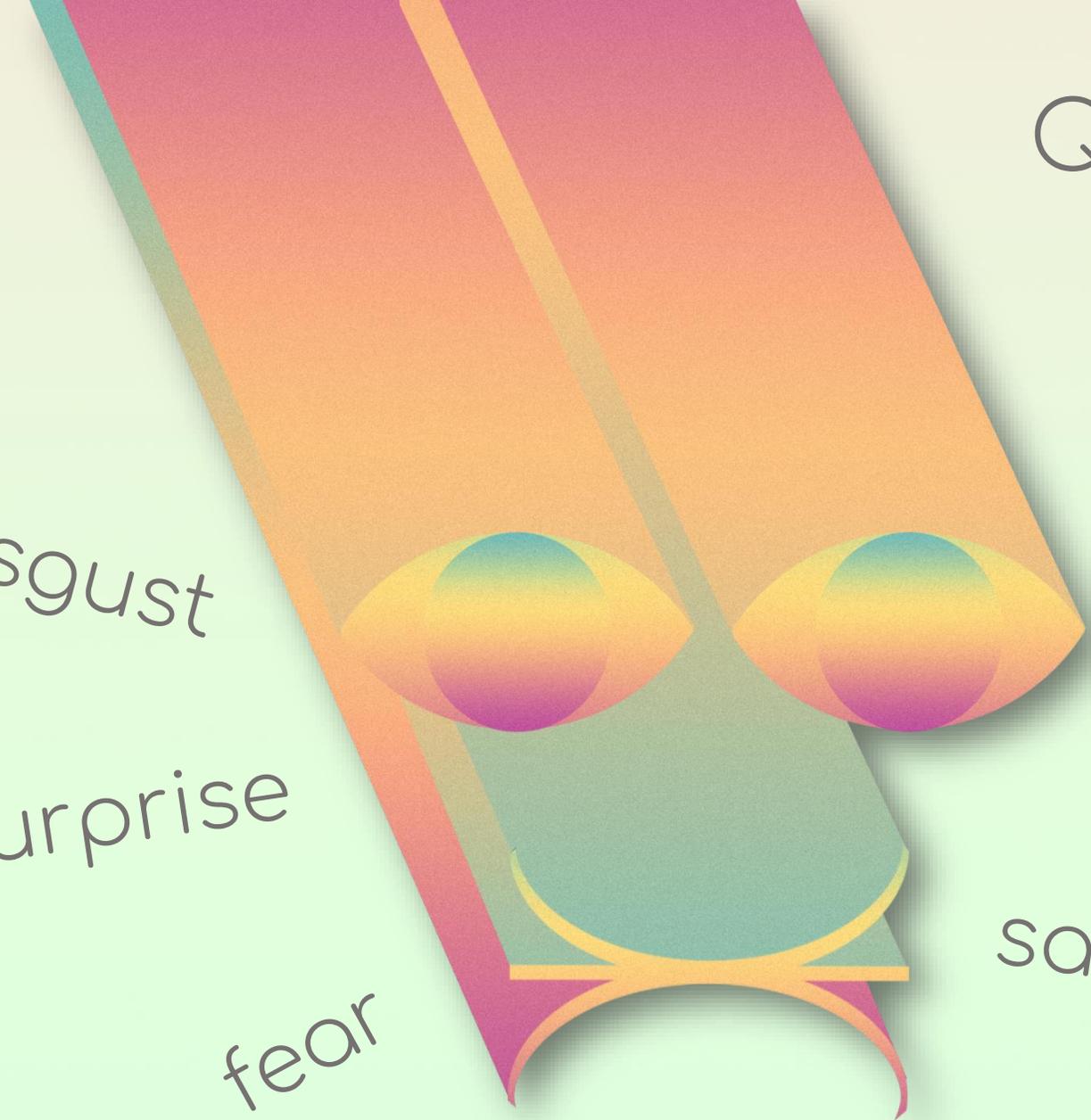
fear

anticipation

joy

anger

sadness



# Qualia Sensations

movement

tickling

vibration

heat

itching

blanace



Qualia  
Others



thoughts

memory

sense of self

Qualia





„We might not be able to communicate a conscious state to ourselves and others.“

- Kastrup Bernardo

Consciousness

Meta-  
Consciousness  
meta = about itself

Consciousness

Meta-  
Consciousness

common use  
of the word  
consciousness

Consciousness

Meta-  
Consciousness

Nescience

Latin: *ne- scire*  
*without knowlede*  
*referring to: without qualia*

can we know if  
something exists  
without qualia ?



If so, how ?



Thomas Nagel asked:  
„What is it like  
to be a bat?“

The bat „pondered“:  
„What is it like  
to be a human?“



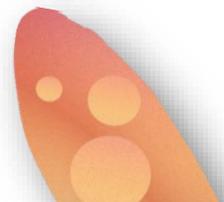
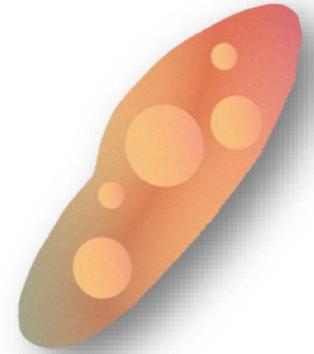
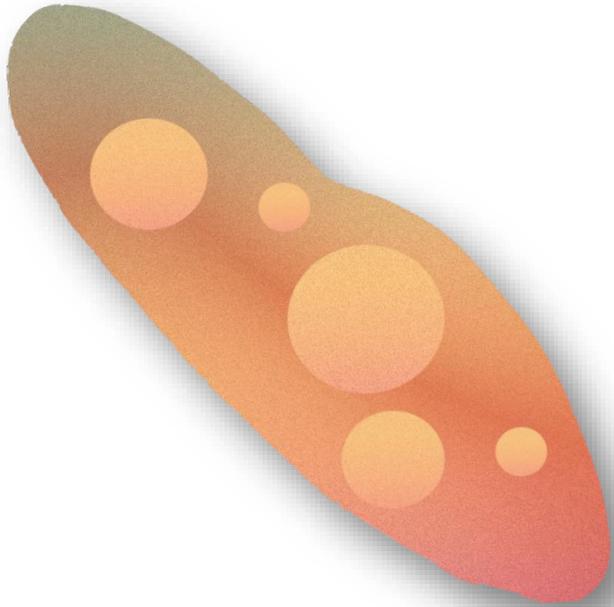


I am  
conscious?

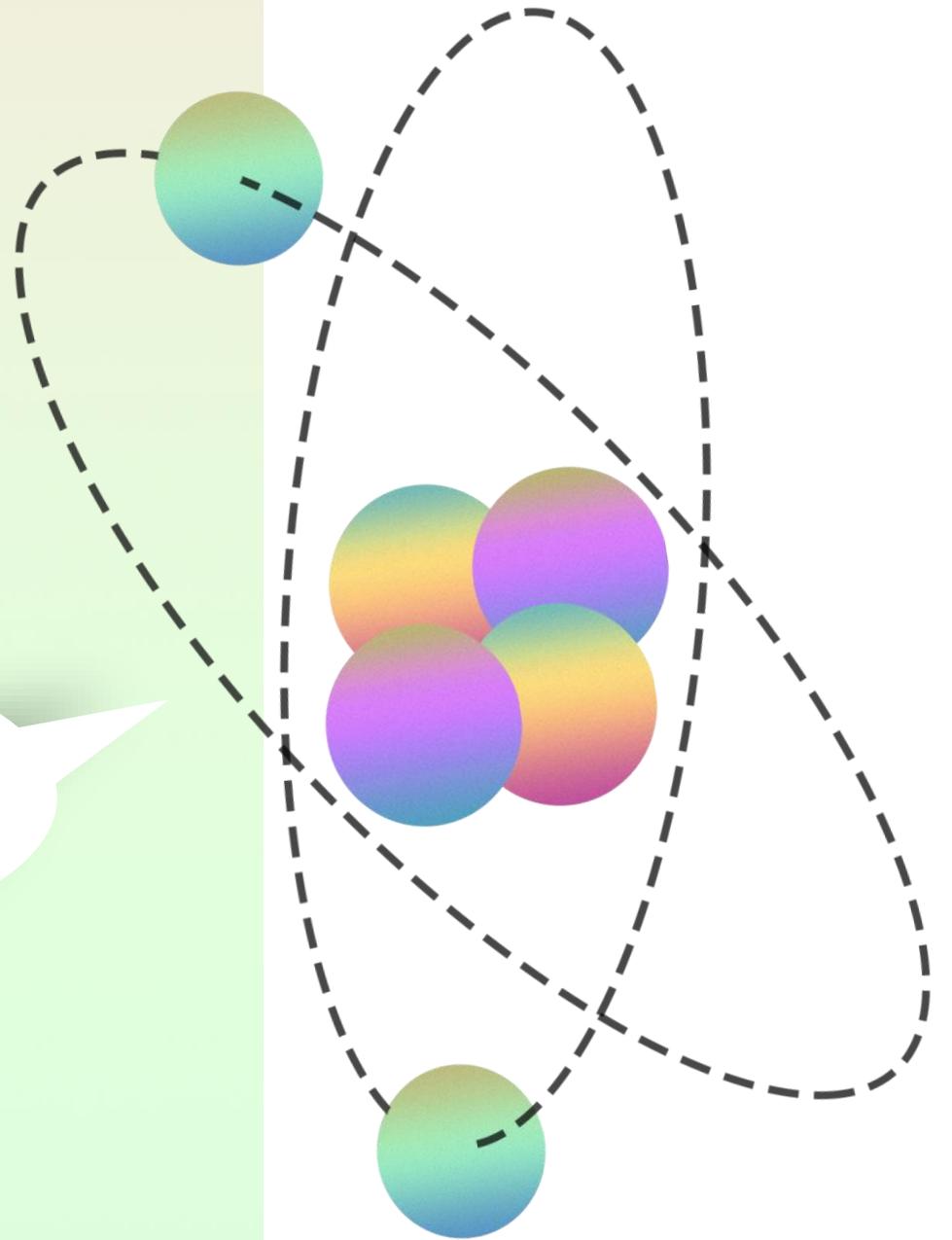




Alipour A. et al. (2017)  
Possible Molecular  
Mechanisms for  
Paramecium Learning.  
*Journal of Advanced  
Medical Sciences and  
Applied Technologies*



Who am I?



# Easy Problems of Consciousness

“explaining the  
function, dynamics,  
and structure of  
consciousness”

- Josh Weisberg, [iep.utm.edu/hard-con](http://iep.utm.edu/hard-con)

# Easy Problems of Consciousness

How are qualia structured, how do they relate with each other,...

# Hard Problem of Consciousness

“Why should physical  
processing give rise to  
a rich inner life at all?”  
- David Chalmers

# Hard Problem of Consciousness

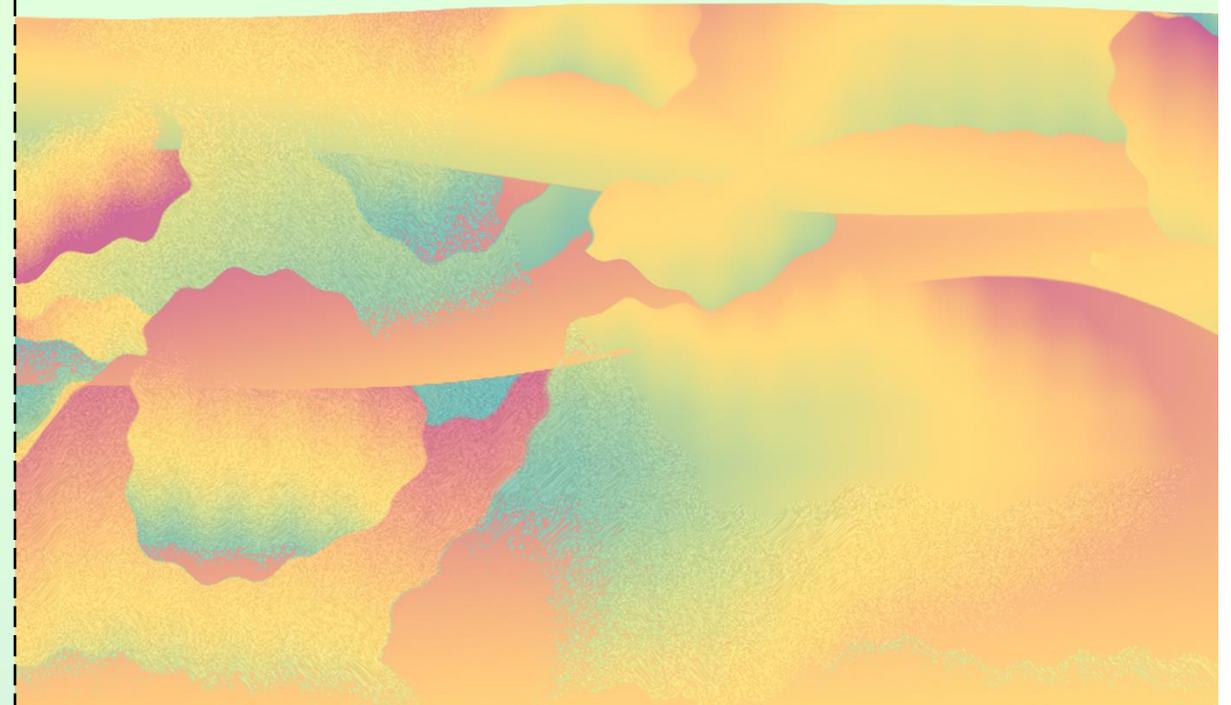
Why is there qualia in  
the first place?

Why should  
certain  
arrangements  
of matter lead  
to felt states,

while others  
presumably  
not?

Is the  
problem of  
experience  
hard

If so, what  
makes it  
hard  
instead of  
easy



# Philosophical Zombie

- Kripke 1972, Chalmers 1996

From a world made of matter and governed by laws, a copy of you is conceivable without having any qualia.



# Inverted Qualia

- Locke 1690

Similarly,  
a copy of you is  
conceivable with  
inverted qualia.



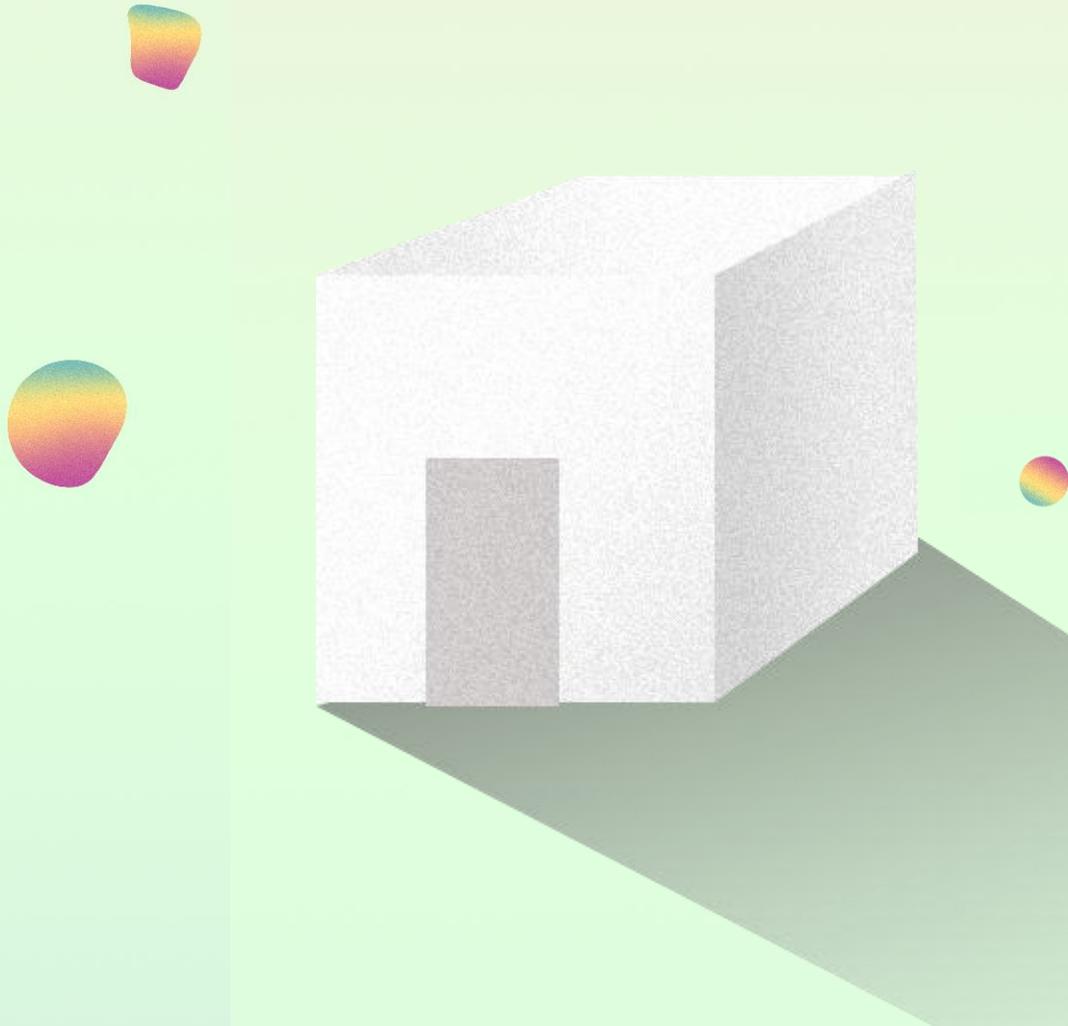


Is your  
experience  
of green  
the same  
as mine?



# Knowledge Argument

- Jackson 1982



Mary is enclosed in a white room, has never seen color but learns every detail about the visual system. Then she is set free and sees color for the first time. Will she *learn* more?

# MIGROS PARTNER

## MIGROS PARTNER

### ÖFFNUNGSZEITEN

Montag – Freitag

08.00 – 12.00 Uhr 13.00 – 18.30 Uhr

Samstag

08.00 – 17.00 Uhr durchgehend

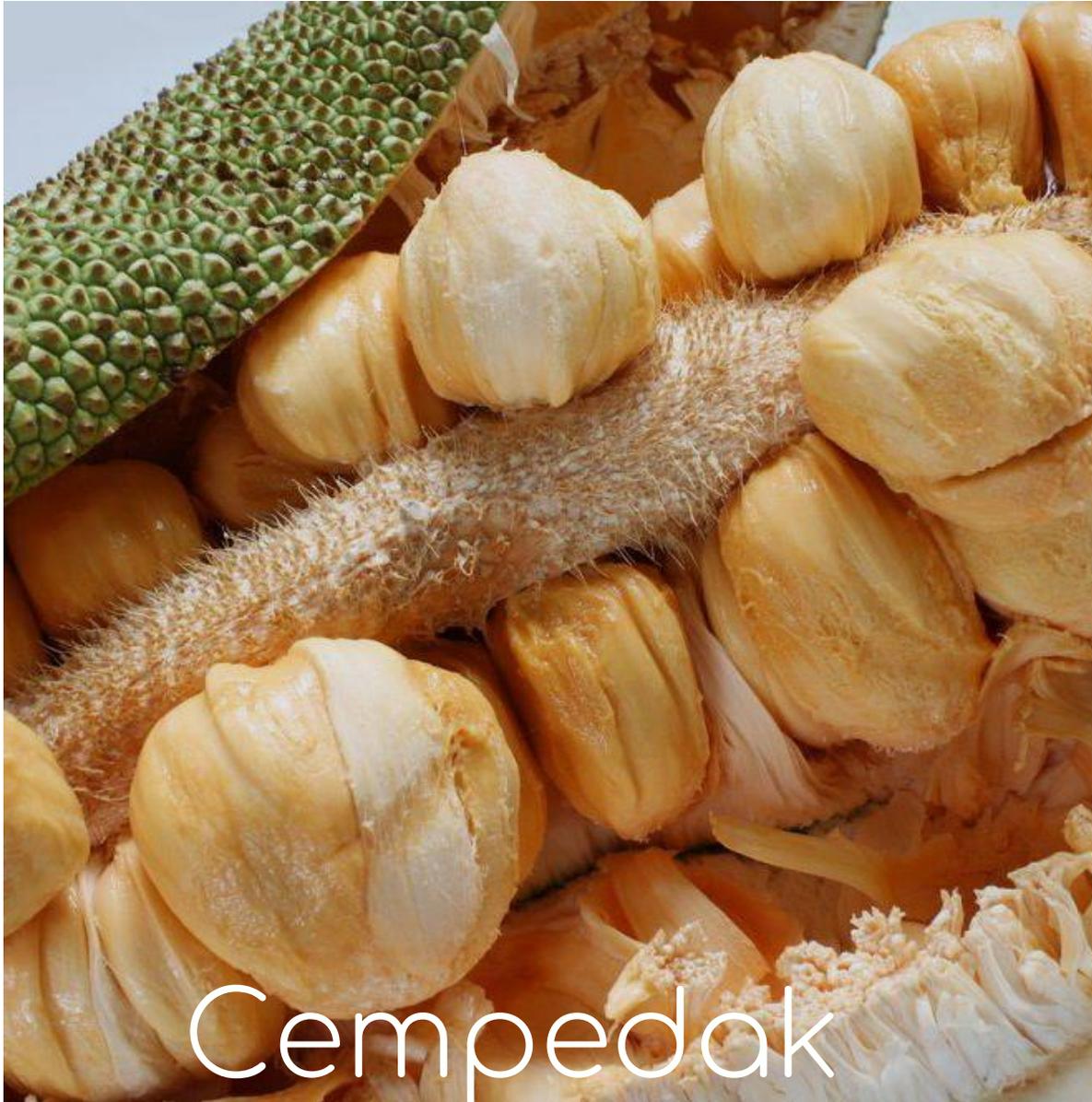
Abteilung für Frühstück bis Samstag







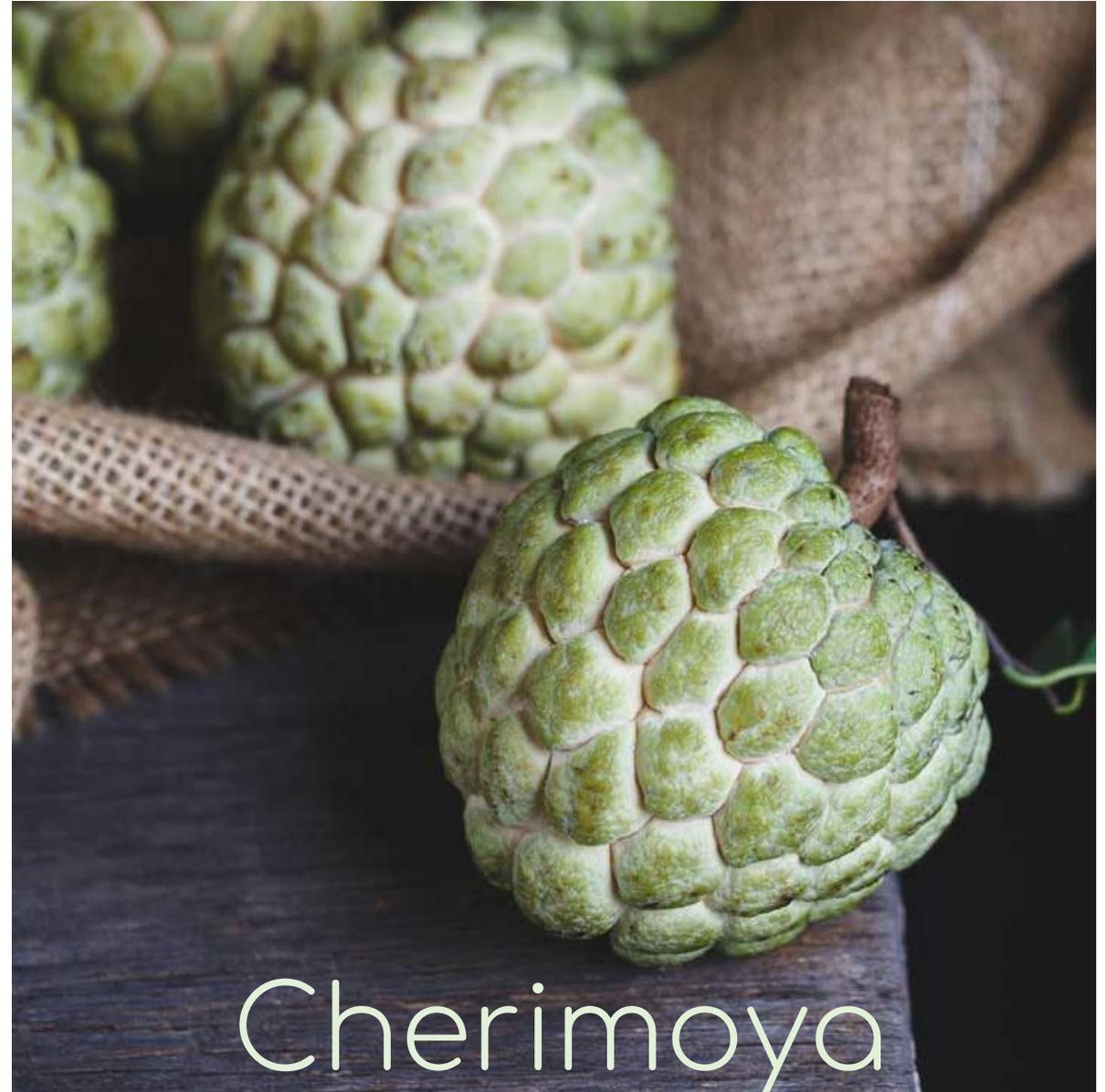
pungent smell with sweet aroma



Cempedak

[foodfornet.com/66-exotic-fruits-from-around-the-world-with-pictures](http://foodfornet.com/66-exotic-fruits-from-around-the-world-with-pictures)

combination of banana, strawberry & pineapple



Cherimoya

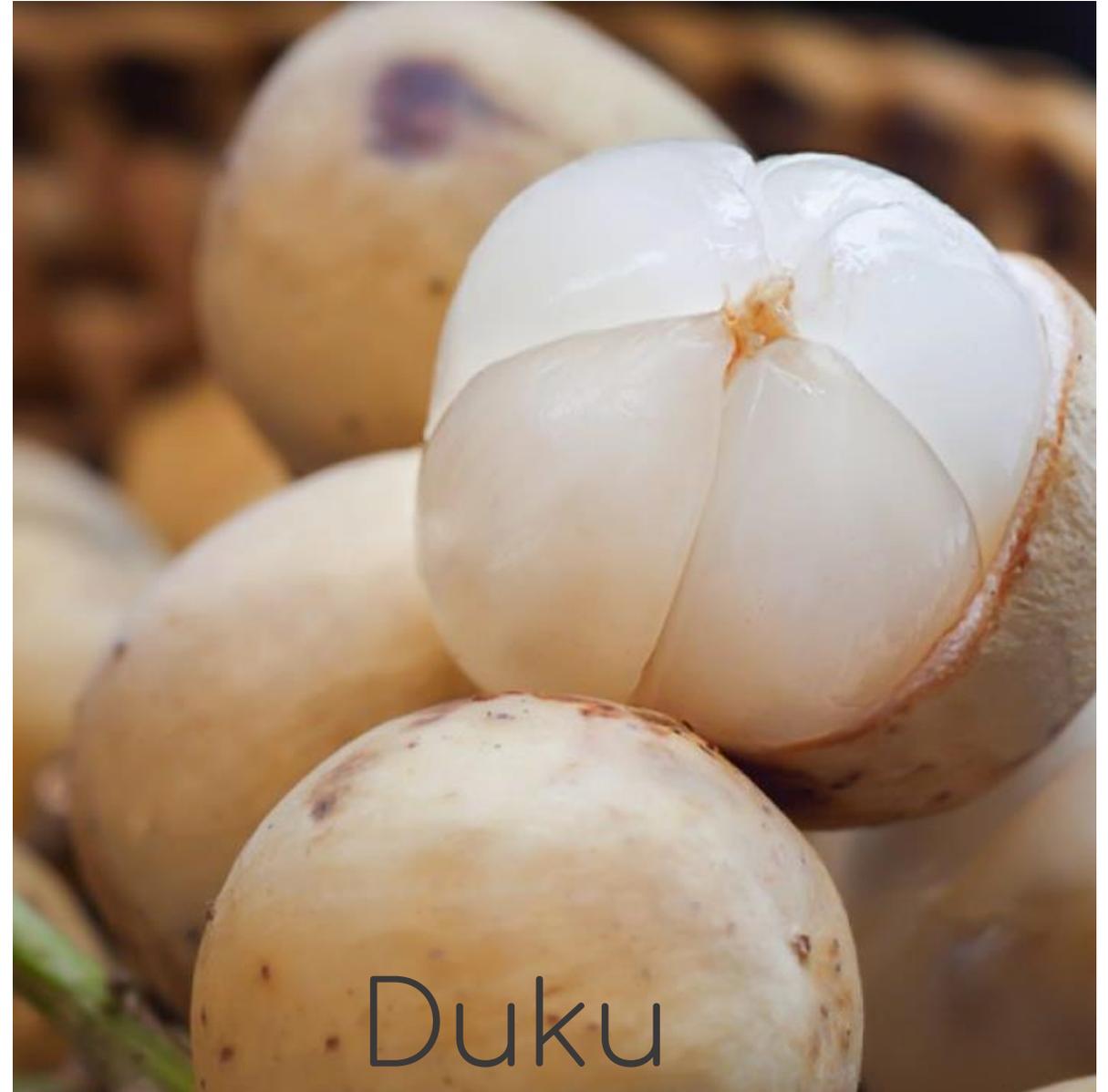
[www.healthline.com/nutrition/cherimoya](http://www.healthline.com/nutrition/cherimoya)

combination of kiwi, zucchini and cucumber



Kiwano

reminiscent of grapefruit and pomelo



Duku

*Intermezzo:*

*A brief experiment inside consciousness!*

[...] it is on the basis of [...] experience that all linguistic connotations are assessed, and precisely through it that language comes to have any meaning at all for us.

- Merleau-Ponty

# Aliens or extraterrestrial life



extraterrestrial lifeforms



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Astronaut Says Alien Lifeforms That Are ...  
scitechdaily.com



Aliens, biology and the future of space ...  
glos.ac.uk



What Will Extraterrestrial Life Look ...  
smithsonianmag.com



Could Invisible Extraterrestrial Life ...  
sci-news.com



Could Invisible Extraterrestrial Life ...  
sci-news.com



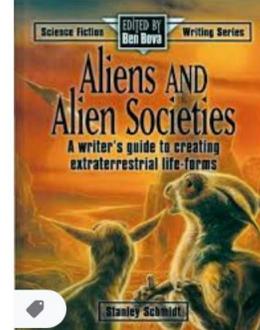
Imagine Alien Life | Known Universe ...  
m.youtube.com



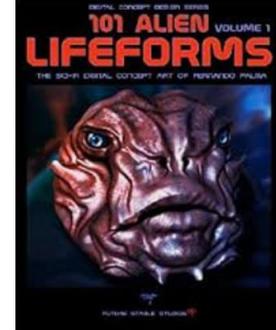
Astronaut Says Alien Lifeforms That Are ...  
scitechdaily.com



Alien lifeforms will be discovered ...  
metro.co.uk



Amazon.com: Aliens & ...  
amazon.com

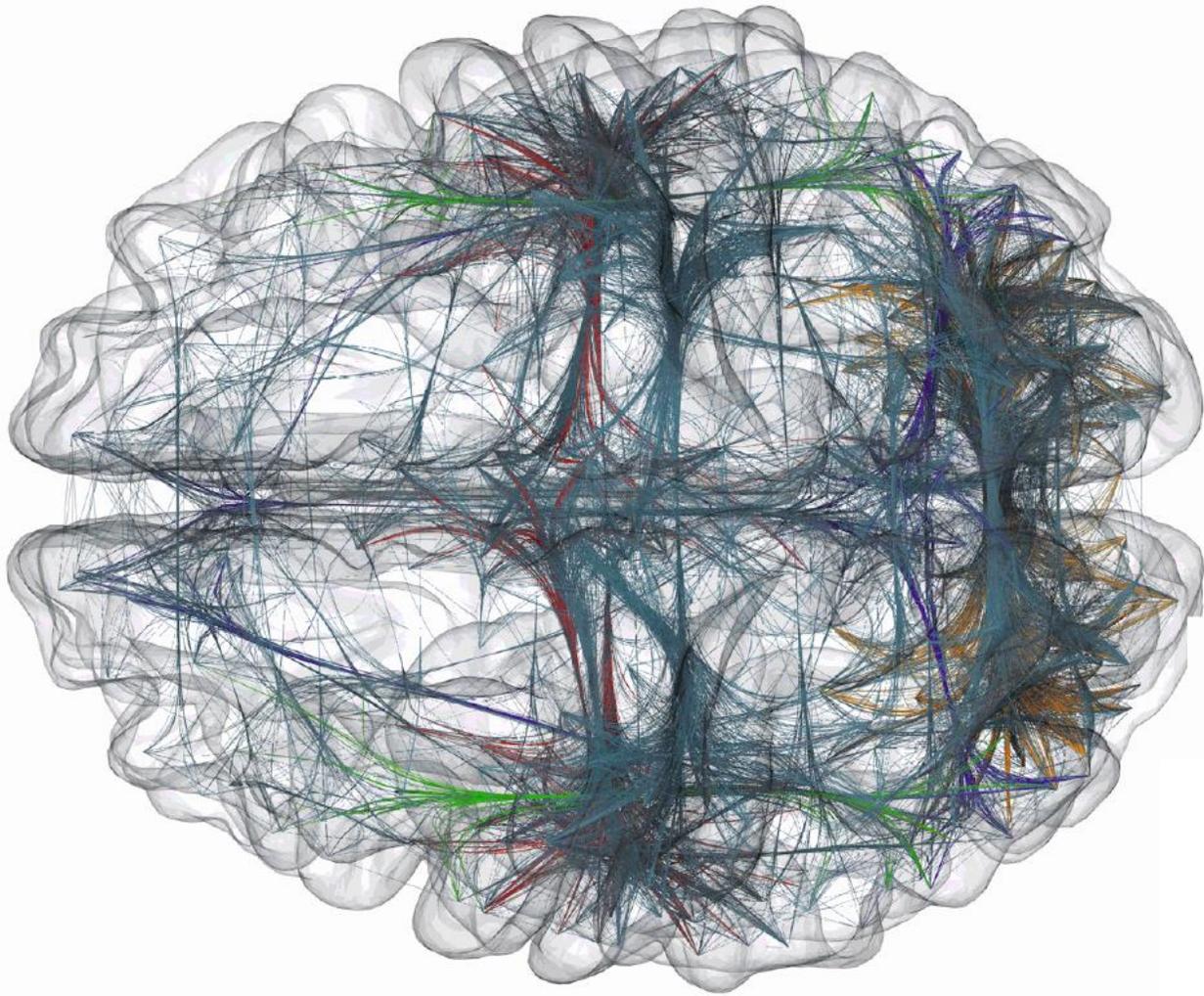


101 Alien Lifeforms: Vol...  
amazon.co.uk

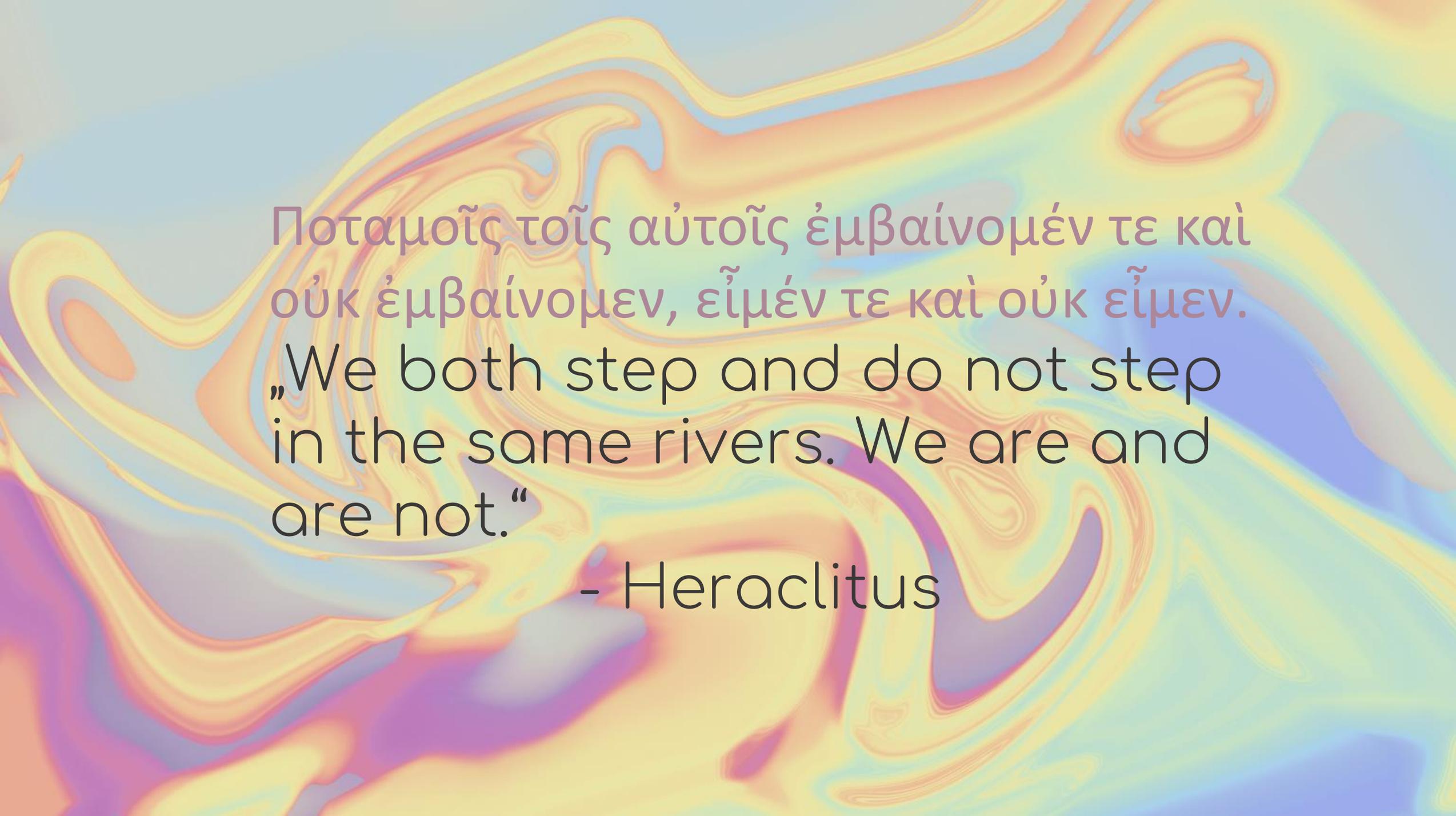


Astrobiologists Claim to Have F...  
sci-news.com





cognition and visual  
system do not share  
the same neuronal  
fingerprint



Ποταμοῖς τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἐμβαίνομέν τε καὶ  
οὐκ ἐμβαίνομεν, εἶμέν τε καὶ οὐκ εἶμεν.

„We both step and do not step  
in the same rivers. We are and  
are not.“

- Heraclitus

# Problem of Mechanism

- Feigl 1958 Autocerebroscope

live streaming all neurons  
and cellular processes, thus  
directly experiencing them,  
**wouldn't help**  
in knowing why any  
physical configuration  
has qualia



