

**Cover image**

Near-surface skin friction lines revealing the flow patterns on the upper surface of an insect-like flapping wing throughout a wing stroke driven by a robotic device. The lines are coloured by flow speed, where blue is slow and yellow is fast (see Phillips *et al.*, this issue; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsfs.2016.0084>). (Image kindly provided by Nathan Phillips.)

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