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# Beetle gets 3D mapped from the inside using microtomography

May. 1, 2012 (12:30 pm) By: [Matthew Humphries](#)

an invaluable reference to have when figuring out if anything is wrong.

11 me technology can be emplo... 1 much smaller scale ([microtomography](#)) for other living things, and it's just such a technique that has won Professor Javier Alba... or from the University of Gra... Share via award. Like email



The video above is not for people who dislike bugs, but if you can stomach watching it, you get to see a complete and perfect representation of a bug's insides. More specifically, it's a complete map of a female Dryops water [beetle](#), captured without damaging the beetle in any way.

The movie was made using a SkyScan-1172 microtomograph located in the Zoology department of the university where the professor works. He mastered the use of the device himself, and that shows in the overall quality of the final capture.

As you can see, every part of the beetle can be looked at in great detail and from every angle. It removes all the guesswork from figuring out how the different systems of this small bug fit together.



While the movie is great to look at, its production is of vital importance in answering question about why beetles move and act the way they do, and why that differs between species. The same microtomography scans can also be used on other living organisms, with the limit as to what can be seen governed by how precise the scanner is. And as with all technology, we should only see that precision improve in the coming years.

Read more at the [AlphaGalileo Foundation](#)

Tags: [3D](#), [CT Scan](#), [digital imaging](#), [Dryops](#), [microtomograph](#), [Professor Javier Alba Tercedor](#), [SkyScan](#), [University of Granada](#), [water beetle](#)  
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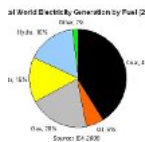


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