

NTU scientists transform ultra-tough pollen into flexible material

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(*Nanyang Technological University*) Scientists at NTU Singapore have found a way to turn pollen, one of the hardest materials in the plant kingdom, into a soft and flexible material, with the potential to serve as 'building blocks' for the design of new categories of eco-friendly materials. They used a simple [chemical](#) process akin to conventional soap-making to turn pollen grains from sunflowers into soft microgel particles that respond to various stimuli.