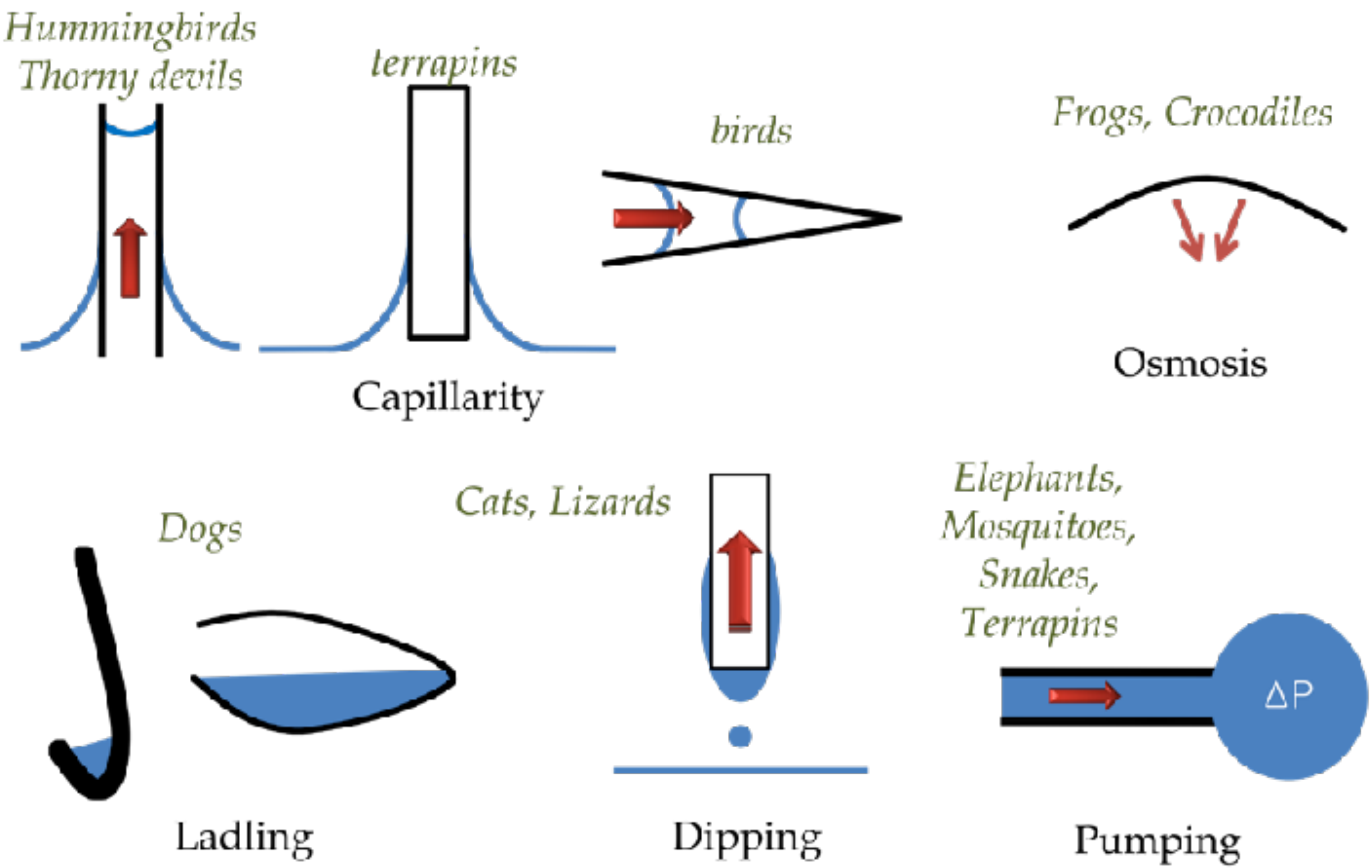
Drinking strategies in nature

with Wonjung Kim

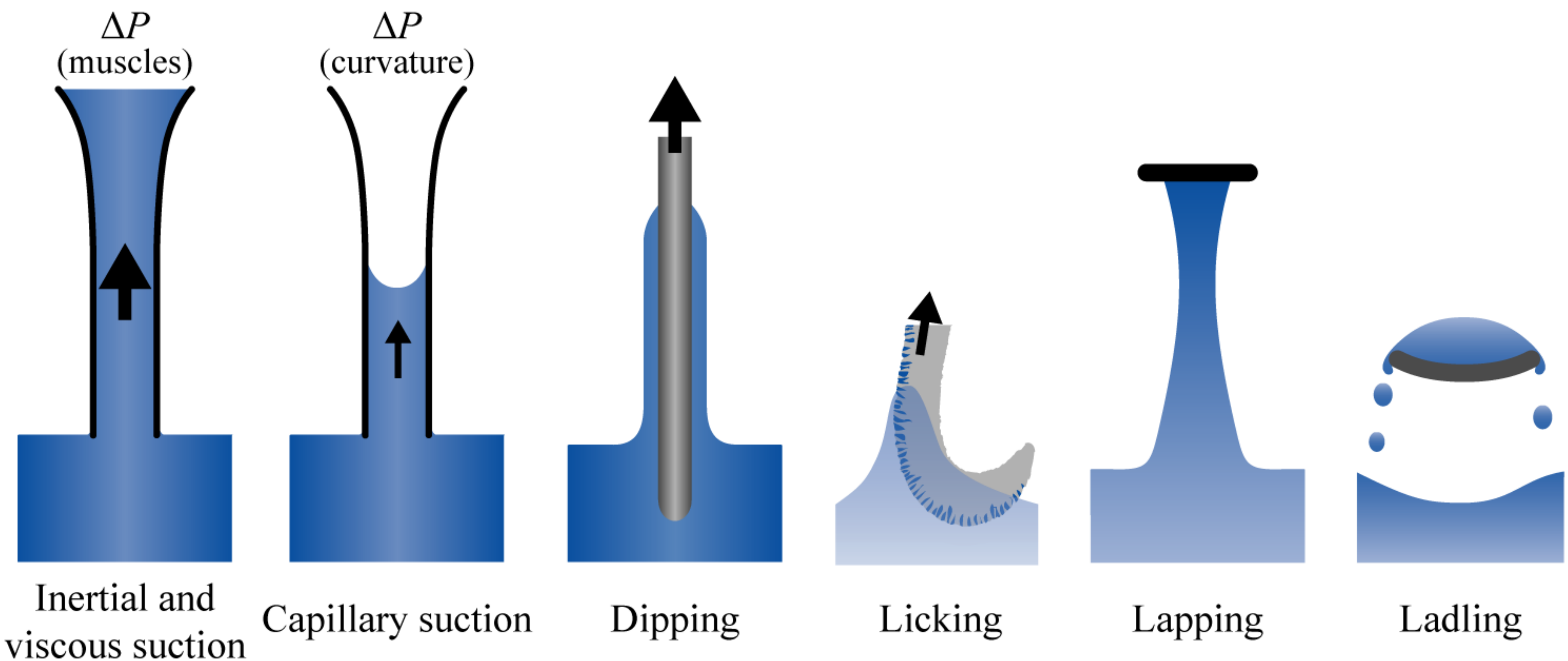
Some drinking strategies in nature



Goal: classify and rationalize all drinking styles

Various drinking techniques in nature

Classification according to dominant driving and resistive forces



Scales of forces in drinking

Scales of forces in drinking

fluid properties (ρ, μ), flow speed (u), mouth size (L), applied pressure (ΔP), and gravitational acceleration (g)

$F_{pressure} \sim \Delta P\, L^2$

$F_{inertia} \sim \rho u^2 L^2$

$F_{viscous} \sim \mu u L$

$F_{gravity} \sim \rho g L^3$

- $\Delta P_{muscle} \sim 10$ kPa
- $\Delta P_{curvature} \sim \sigma / L$

$F_{max} \sim l^2$, $\Delta P_{max} \sim F_{max} / l^2 \sim l^0$

e.g., 10 kPa for mosquitoes, humans, and elephants

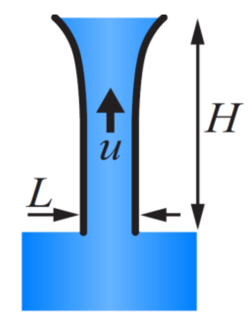
Relative magnitudes of hydrodynamic forces

$Bo = \rho g L^2 / \sigma$ ~ curvature to hydrostatic pressure

$Re = \rho u L / \mu$ ~ inertia to viscous forces

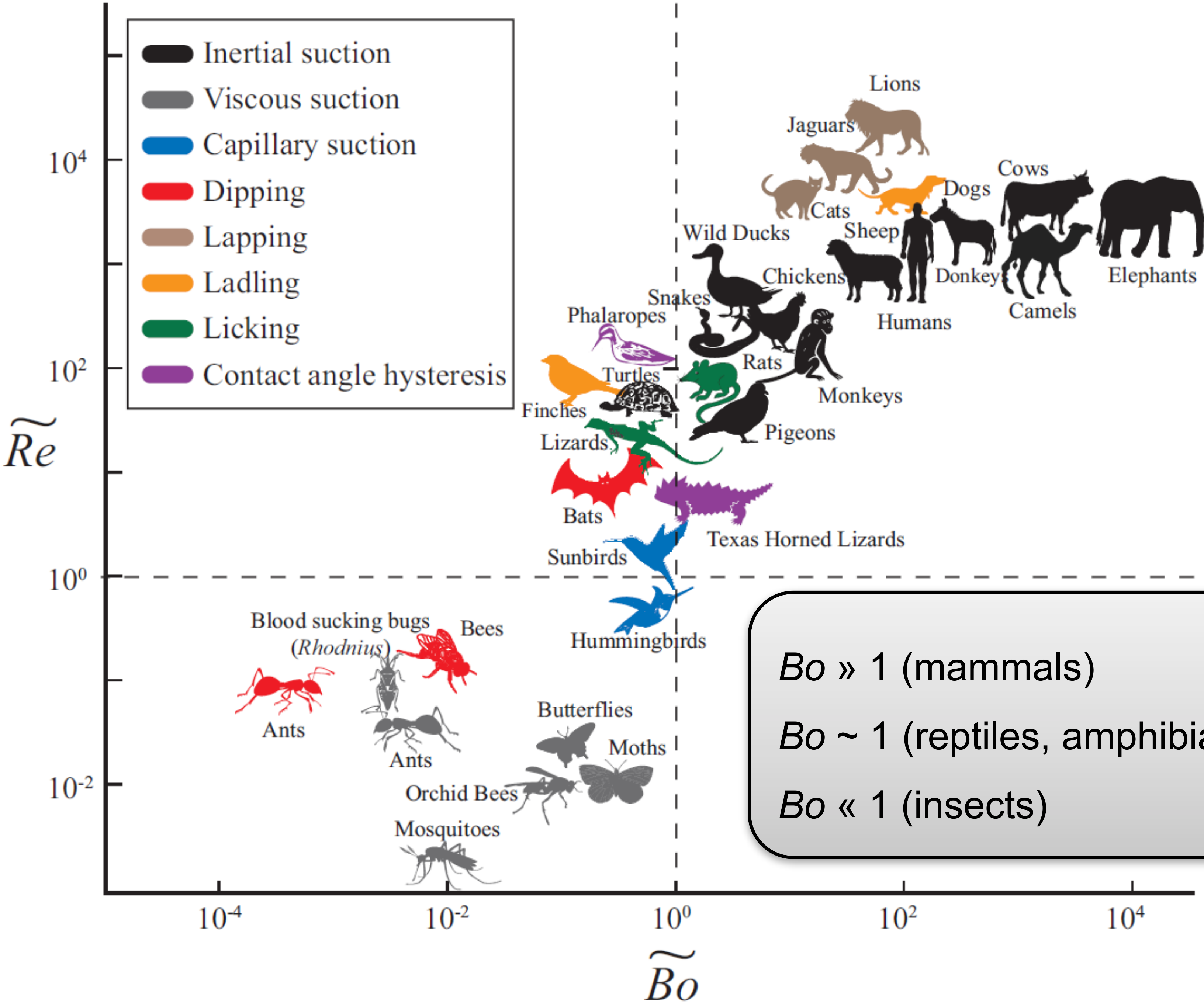
$\widetilde{Bo} = \rho g L^2 / \sigma \cdot (H/L)$

$\widetilde{Re} = \rho u L / \cdot (L/H)$



Assessment of these dimensionless numbers → dominant forces in drinking

Re and *Bo* in drinking of various creatures



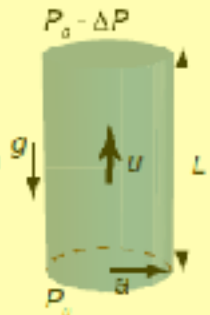
Bo » 1 (mammals)

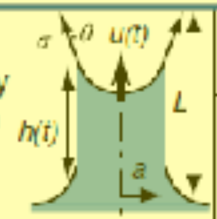
Bo ~ 1 (reptiles, amphibians, birds)

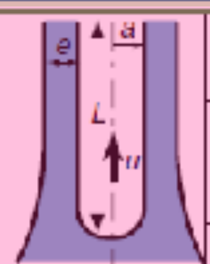
Bo « 1 (insects)

Nectar drinking (with Wonjung Kim, Tristan Gilet)

- simple models allow for rationalization of optimal sugar concentration







Mechanism	Name	Genus	Optimal (%)
Active Suction	Ants	*Atta* (5)	30
		Camponotus (5)	40
	Bees	*Euglossa* (18)	35
	Butterflies	*Agraulis* (12)	40
		Phoebis (12)	35
		Speyeria (24)	35
		Thymelicus (2)	40
		Vanessa (25)	40
	Moths	*Pseudaletia* (2)	40
		Macroglossum (26)	35
		Manduca (27)	30
Capillary Suction	Humming-birds	*Sciasphorus* (16)	35-45
		Selasphorus (28)	
	Honey-eaters	*Anthochaera* (29)	50
		Phylidonyris (29)	40
		Acanthorhynchus (29)	30
	Sunbirds	*Cinnyris* (30)	30
Viscous Dipping	Ants	*Pachycondyla* (5)	50
		Rhytidoponera (5)	50
	Bees	*Bombus* (8)	55
		Apis (9)	55
		Melipona (9)	60
	Bats	*Glossophaga* (31)	60

Suction

Dipping

- optimal S minimizes energy flux with constant power output

Namib Desert Beetle: drinking via refrigeration-free condensation

- the desert beetle has hydrophylic bumps to which 5 micron scale fog droplets stick, then grow by accretion until rolling through hydrophobic valleys and into their mouths

Parker & Lawrence (2001)

- inspired the development of superplastics for water gathering in the 3rd World

Zhai et al. (2006)

Capillary feeding in shorebirds

with Manu Prakash, David Quere, in *Science*

The Phalarope

- spinning motion sweeps preys to surface, like tea leaves in a swirling cup

Rubega (1997)

- capillary feeding used by a variety of shorebirds
- an intermediate step in evolution of filter-feeding

Question: how do they intake water?

Possibilities

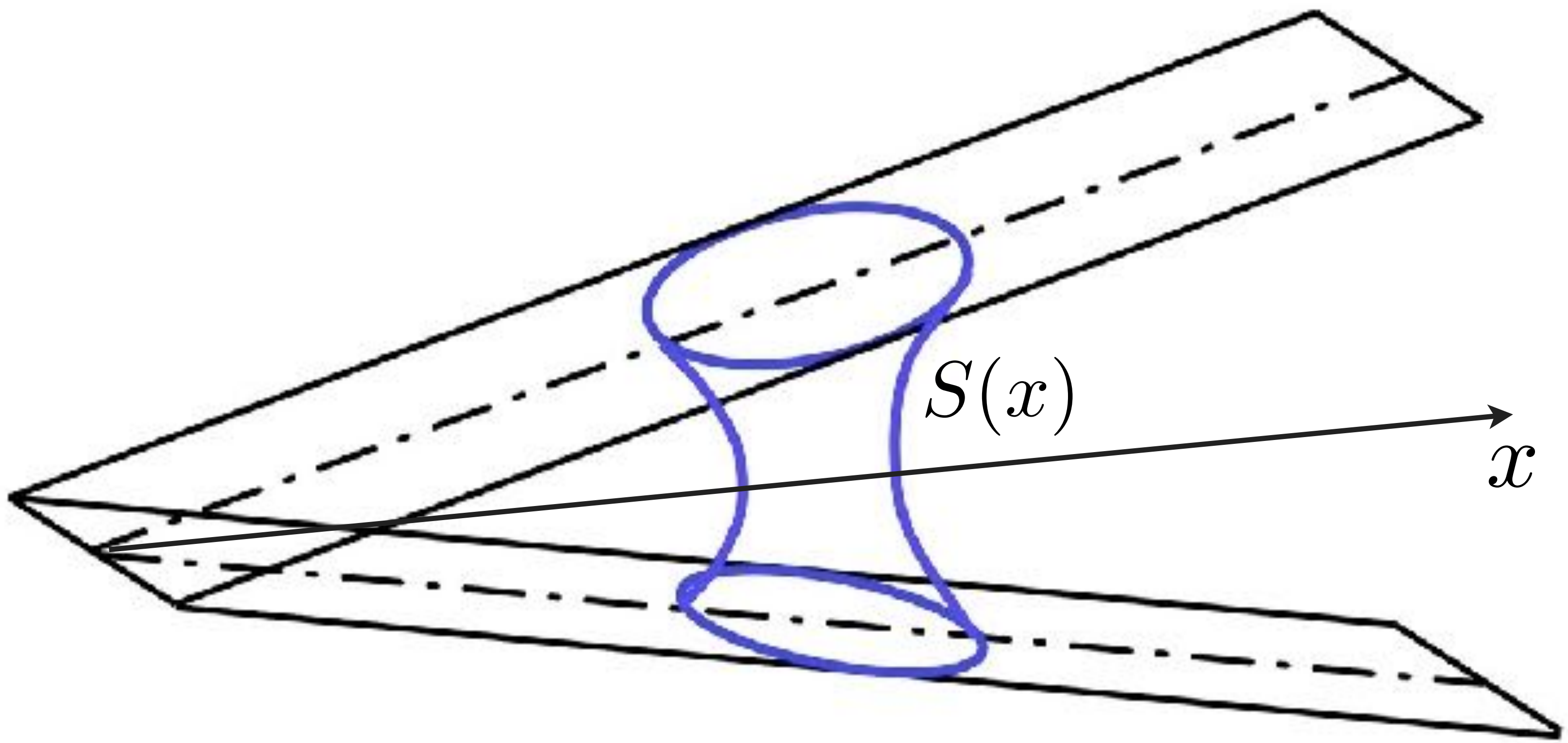
- suction: precluded by beak geometry
- gravity: requires head tilting
- capillarity

Observations

Rubega & Obst, 1993. Surface-tension feeding in phalaropes: a novel feeding mechanism, *The Auk*, **110**, 169-178.

- some shorebirds use capillary forces to draw water into their mouths
- plankton withdrawn from drop, then water expelled
- drops move at high speed ~ 30-50 cm/s
- pecking rates ~ 10 Hz; 2-3 mandibular spreading events per cycle

Toy Model: Catenoid between inclined plates



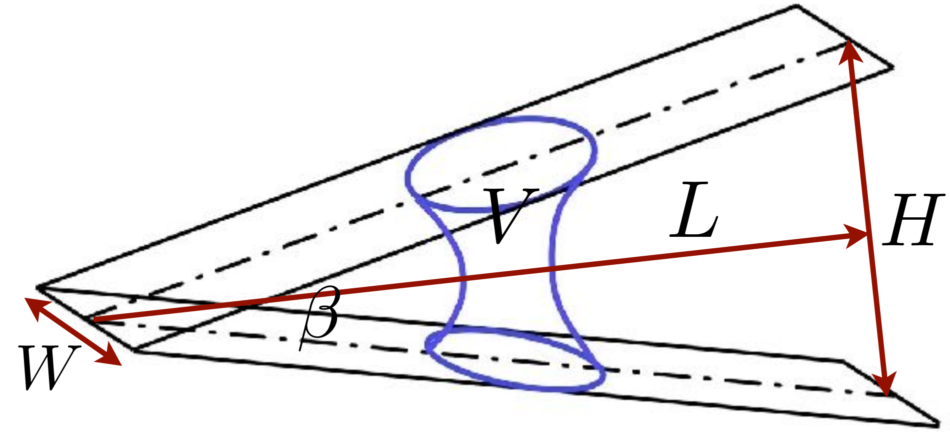
- neglect the influence of gravity
- isolate the influence of surface tension

Propulsive force:

$$F_c(x) = \sigma \frac{dS(x)}{dx}$$

Criterion for drop motion

$$V > \frac{2\pi}{3} W^2 H$$



Criterion for drop stability

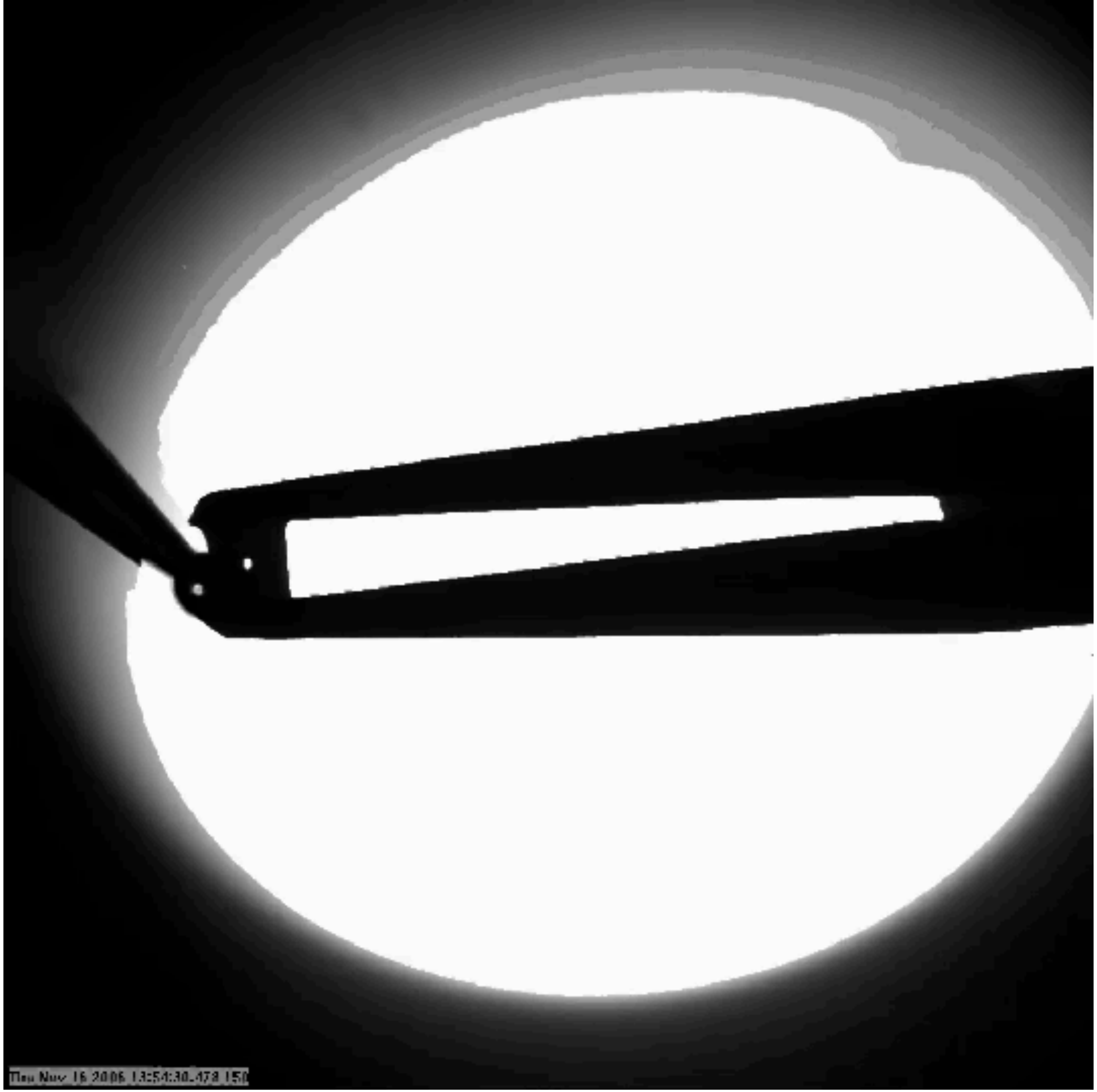
$$V > \frac{H^3}{\pi}$$

- these criteria may be satisfied simultaneously provided

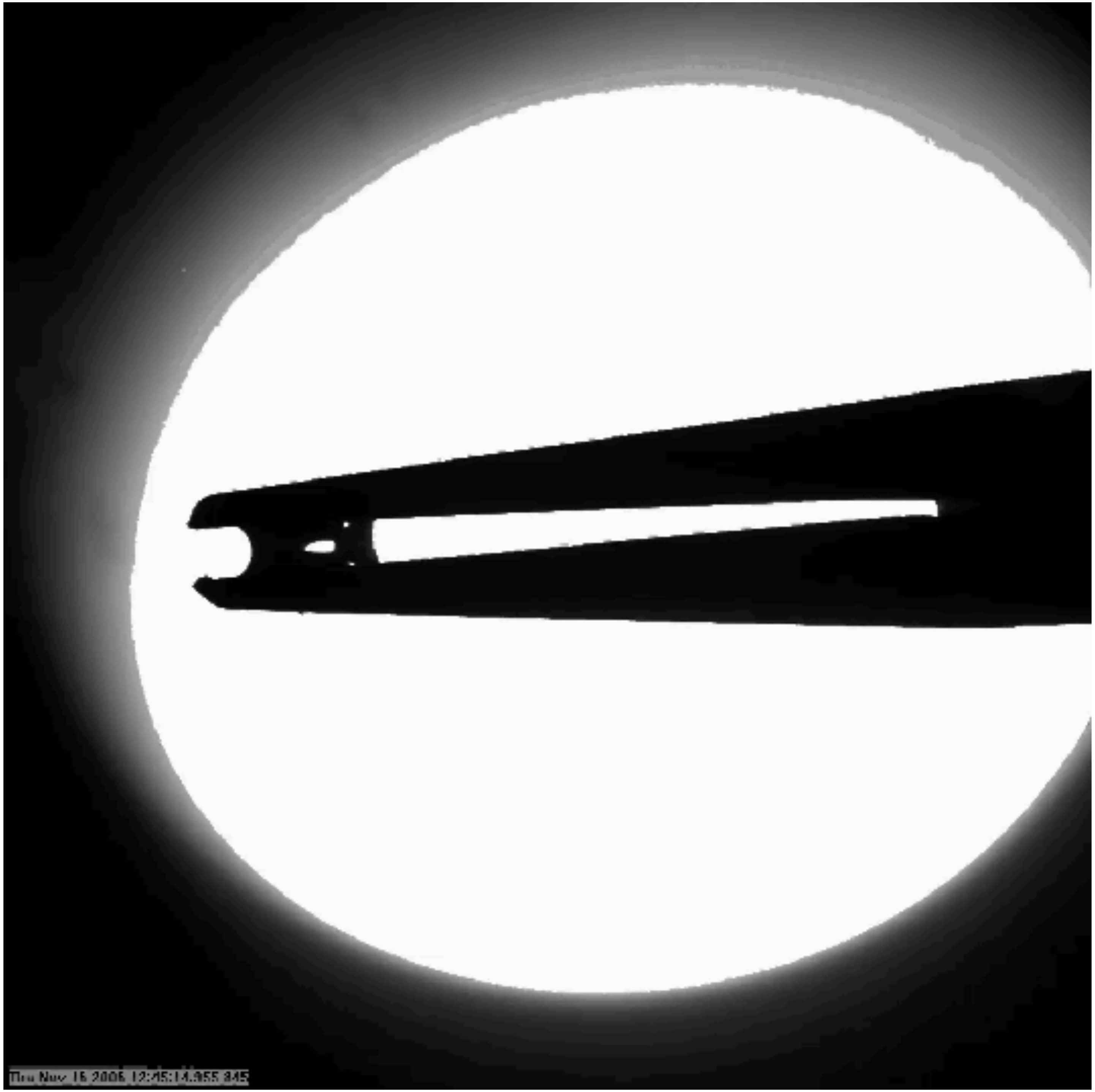
$$\frac{H}{W} > \sqrt{2\pi} \longrightarrow \boxed{\frac{L}{W} \tan\frac{\beta}{2} > \sqrt{2\pi}}$$

→ a meaningful constraint on the morphology of bird beaks?

- 5 cS silicon oil on stainless steel

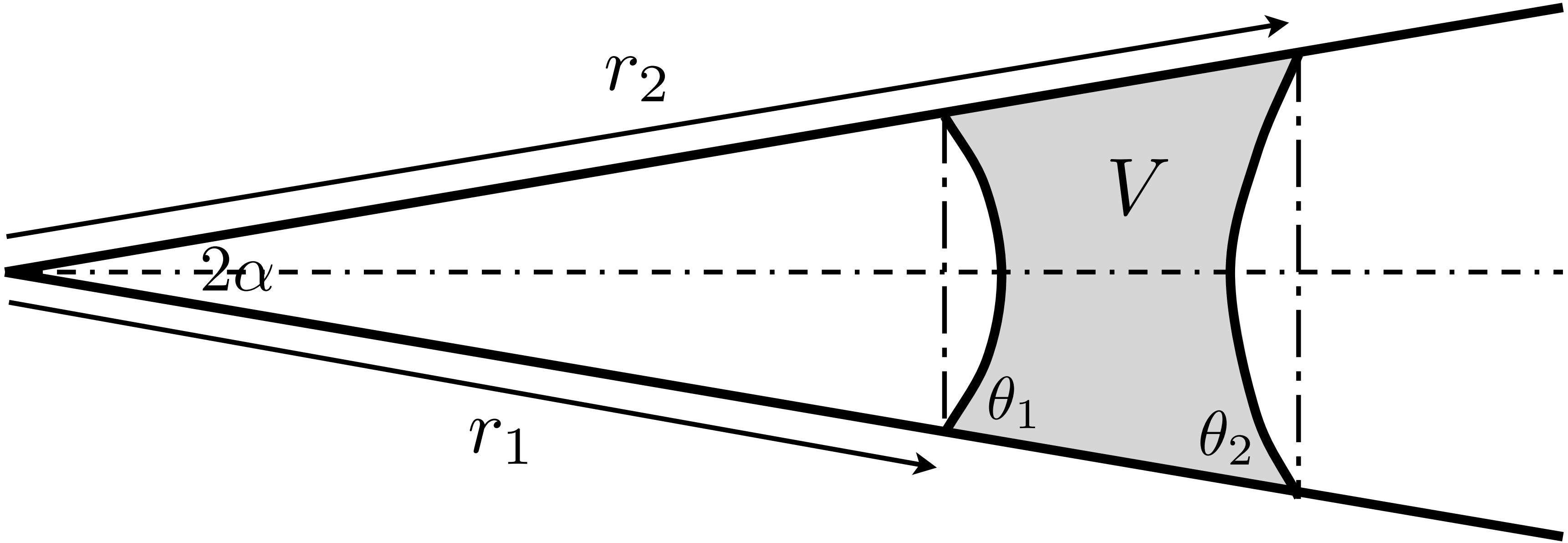


- water drop pinned by contact line



- water drop freed to move by oscillating boundaries

Capillary ratcheting: the non-wetting beak (2D)



Bounds on static contact angles: $\theta_a > (\theta_1, \theta_2) > \theta_r$

Lateral force balance on static drop: $\theta_1 - \theta_2 \; = \; 2\alpha$

Continuity:

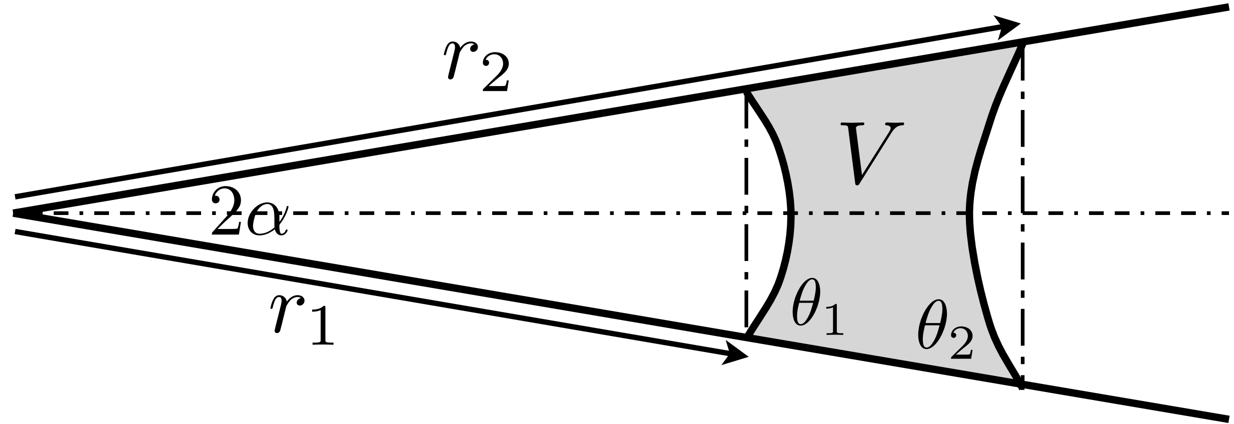
$$\frac{V - \frac{1}{2}(r_2^2 - r_1^2)\sin 2\alpha}{(r_1^2 + r_2^2)\sin^2\alpha}\cos^2 x \; = \; \frac{\pi}{2} - x - \frac{1}{2}\sin x$$

where $x = \theta_1 - \alpha = \theta_2 + \alpha$

→ yields (θ_1, θ_2) in terms of (V, r_1, r_2, α)

Force balance requires:

$$\theta_1 - \theta_2 \;=\; 2\alpha$$

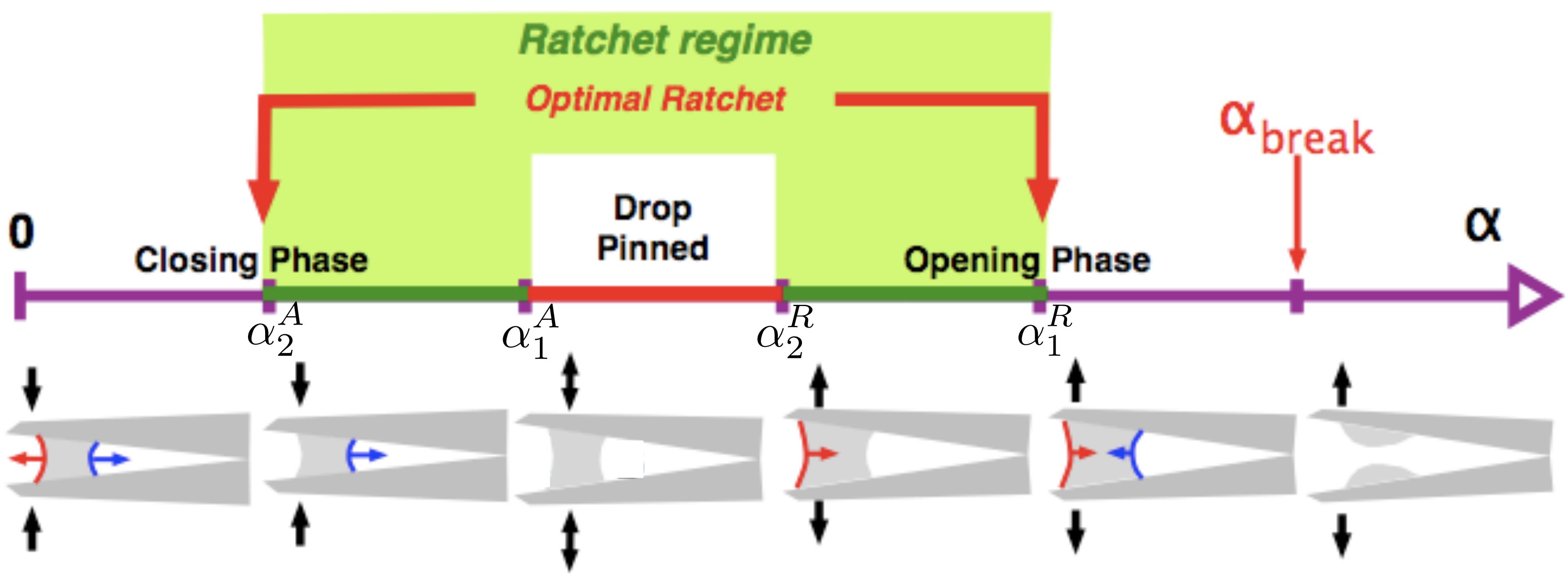


Closure phase: can deduce α_1^A at which $\theta_1 = \theta_A$

α_2^A at which $\theta_2 = \theta_A$

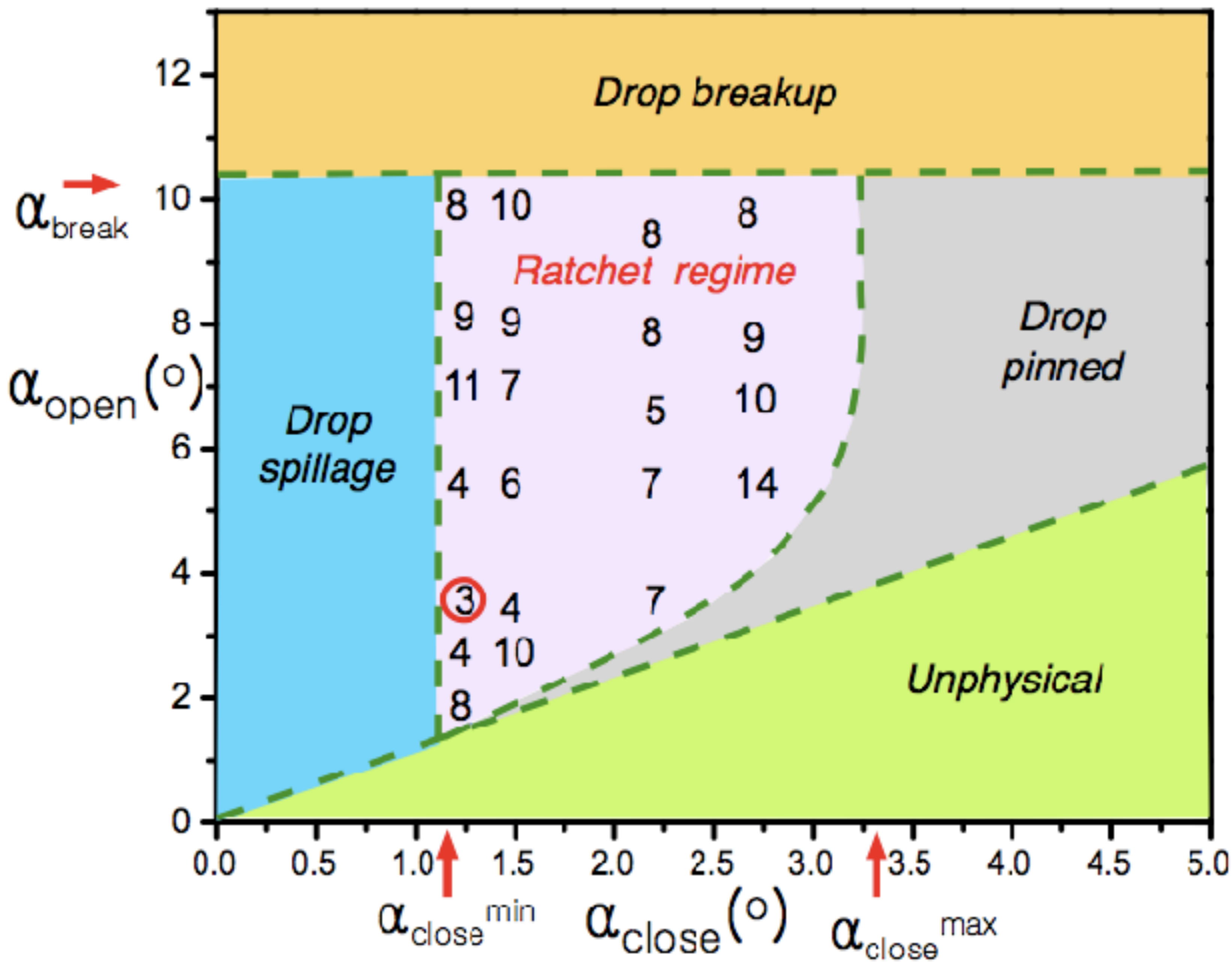
Opening phase: can deduce α_2^R at which $\theta_2 = \theta_R$

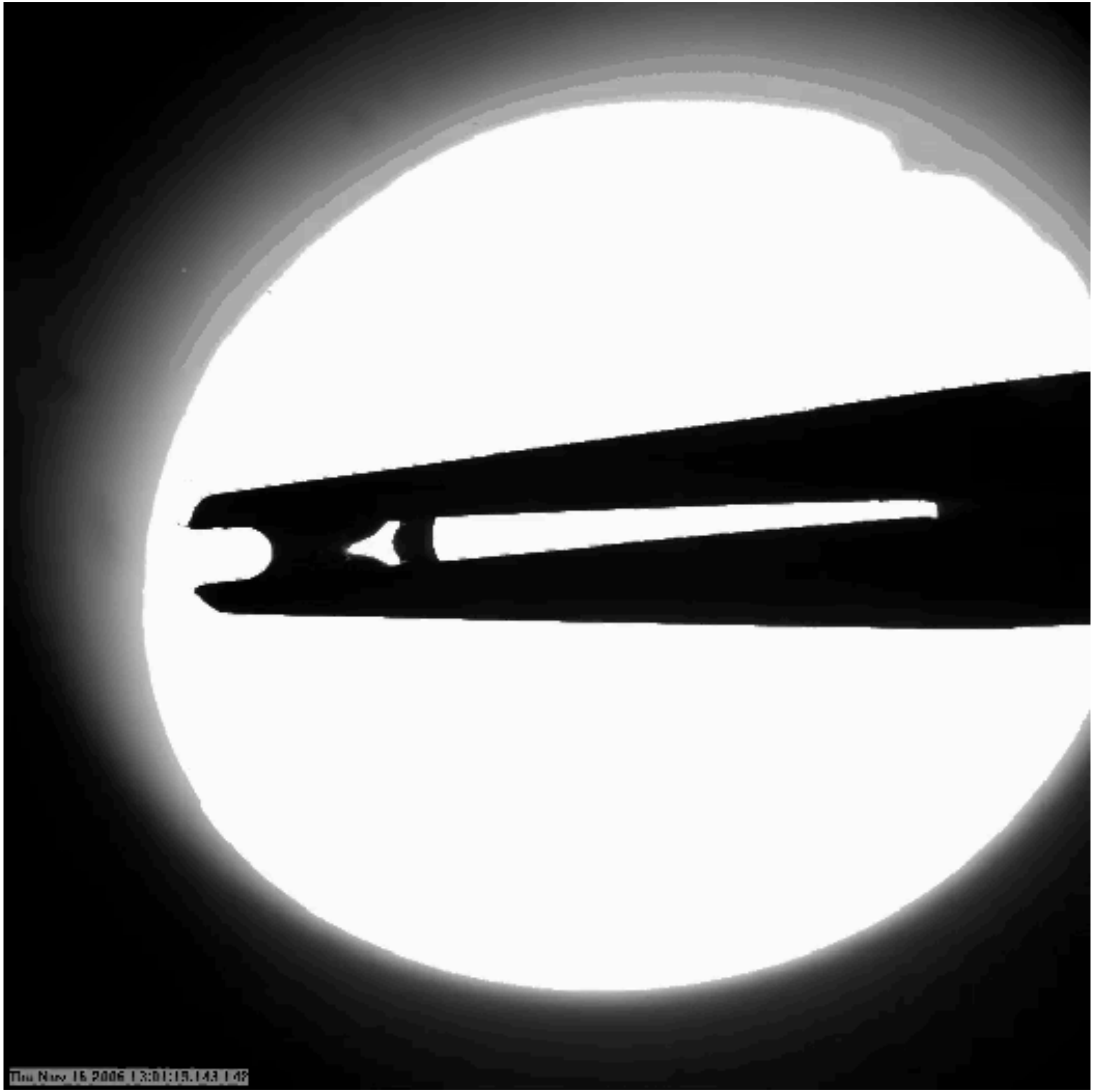
α_1^R at which $\theta_1 = \theta_R$



Tuning the capillary ratchet

- fix drop volume





- the bird beak regime: 2-3 cycles per feeding event

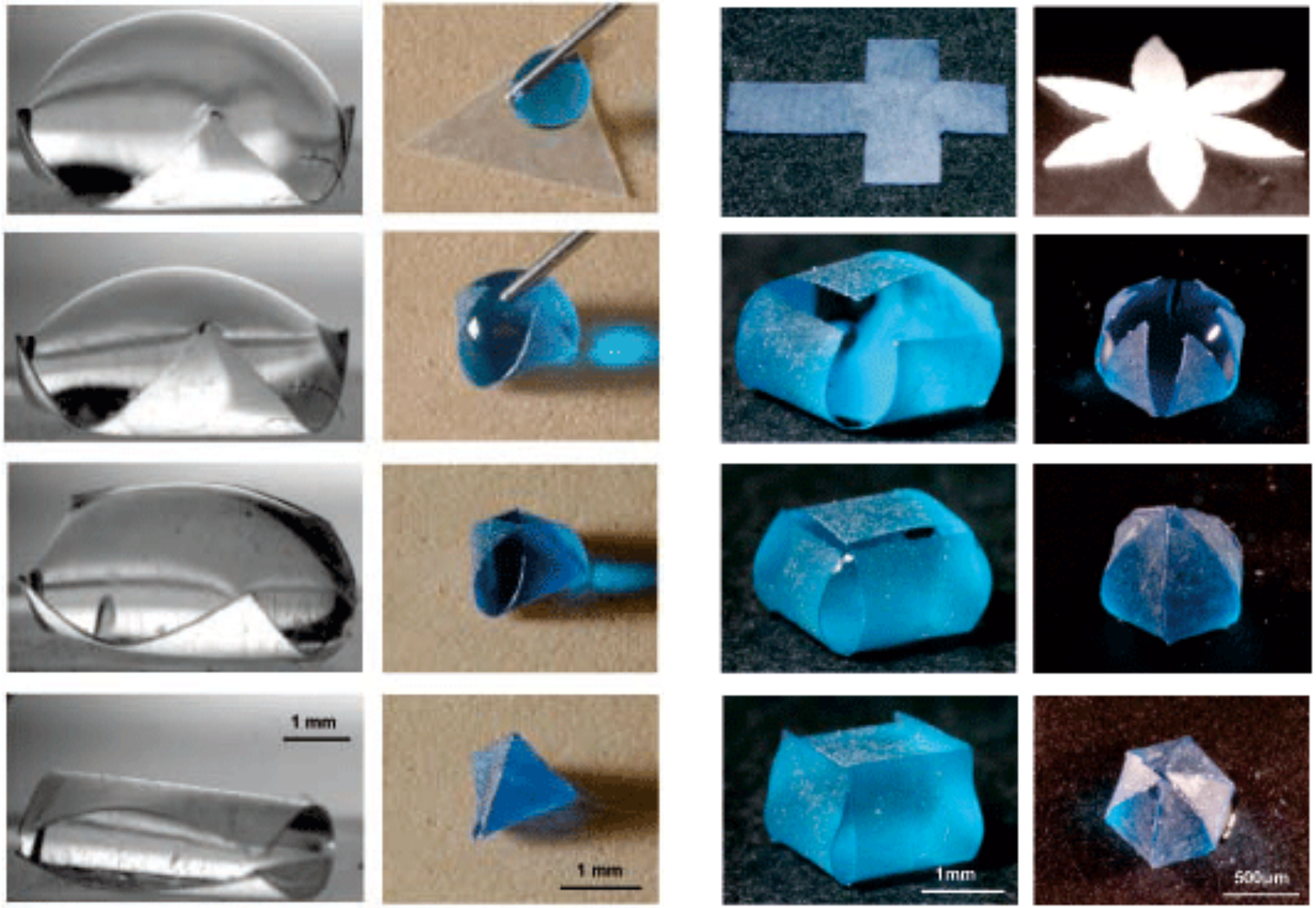
Big picture

- wetting properties of beaks important to shorebirds: effect of oil spills?
- σ - dominated flows to be more prevalent at smaller scales
- similar mechanisms bound to exist in the insect world or elsewhere
- contact angle hysteresis coupled with geometry can drive motion
  - applications: discrete fluid transport in microfluidic devices

Capillary Origami: folding of elastic sheets with surface tension

Py, Reverdy, Roman, Bico, Baroud (2007)

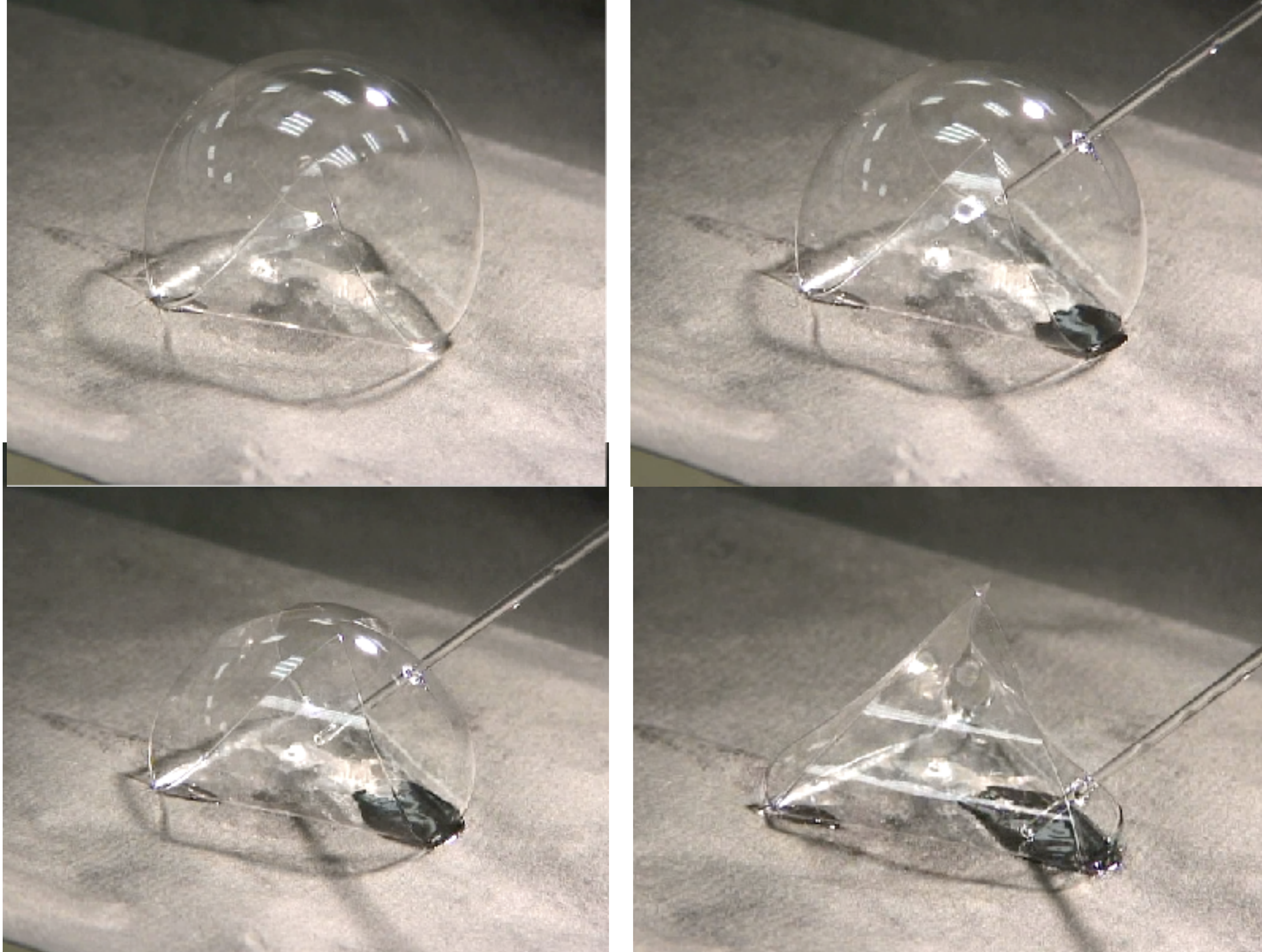
Capillary Origami: folding of elastic sheets with surface tension



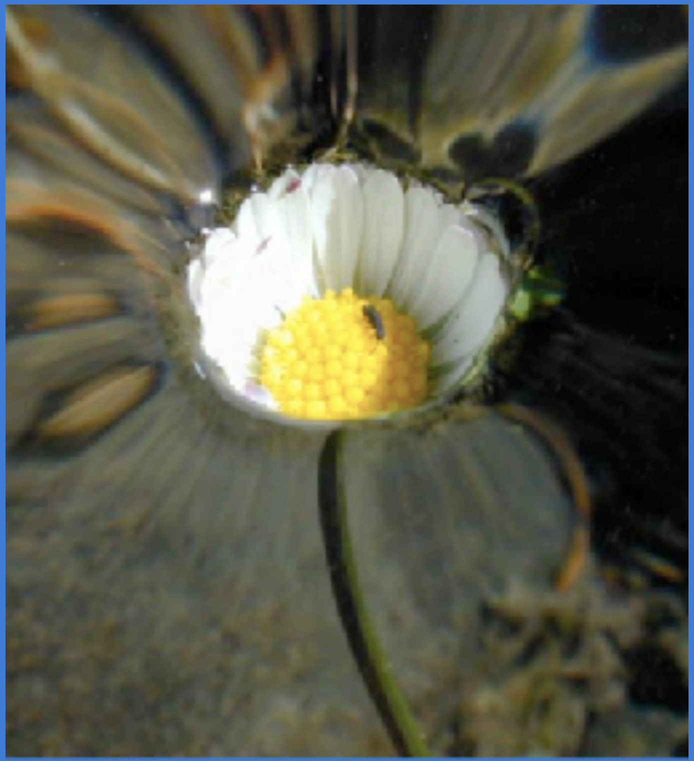
Elastocapillary length:

$$\ell_{EC} \sim \left(\frac{Eh^3}{\sigma} \right)^{1/2}$$

Py et al. (2007)



Capillary origami in nature



1. The folding of floating flowers

   - with Pedro Reis, Sunny Jung and Christophe Clanet

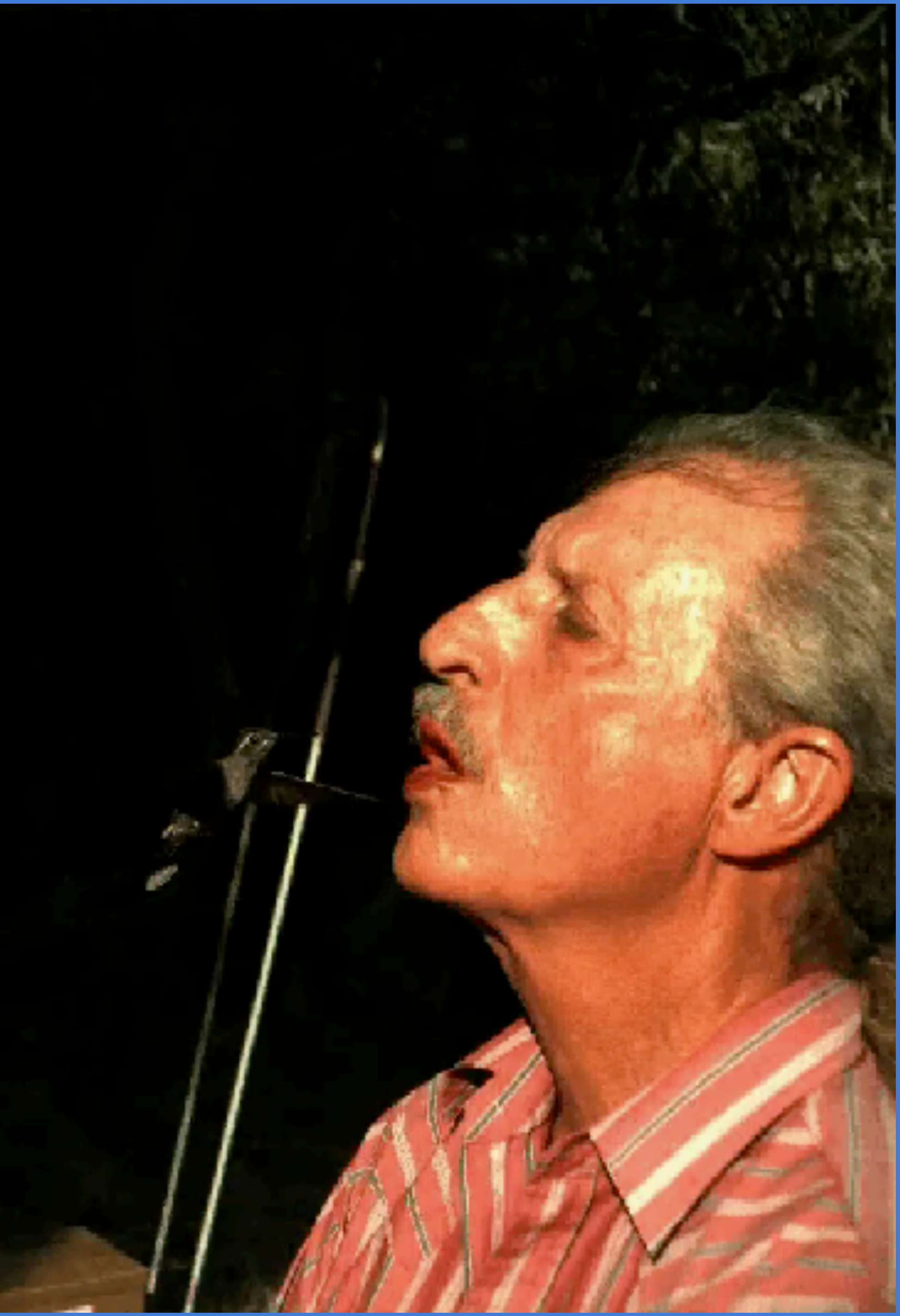
2. Spider capture thread: form and function

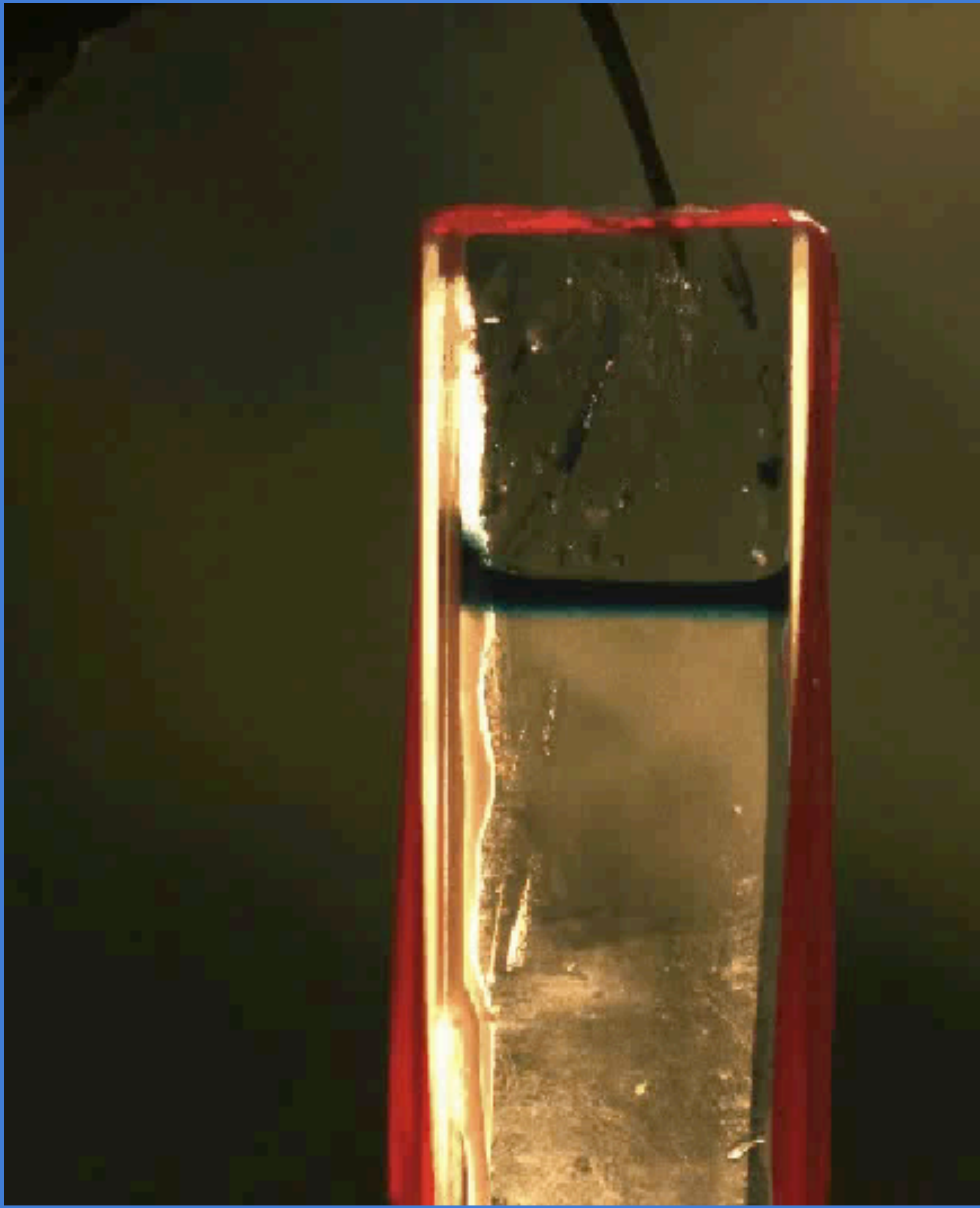
   - with Sunny Jung and Christophe Clanet

3. The tongue of the hummingbird

   - Wonjung Kim's course project

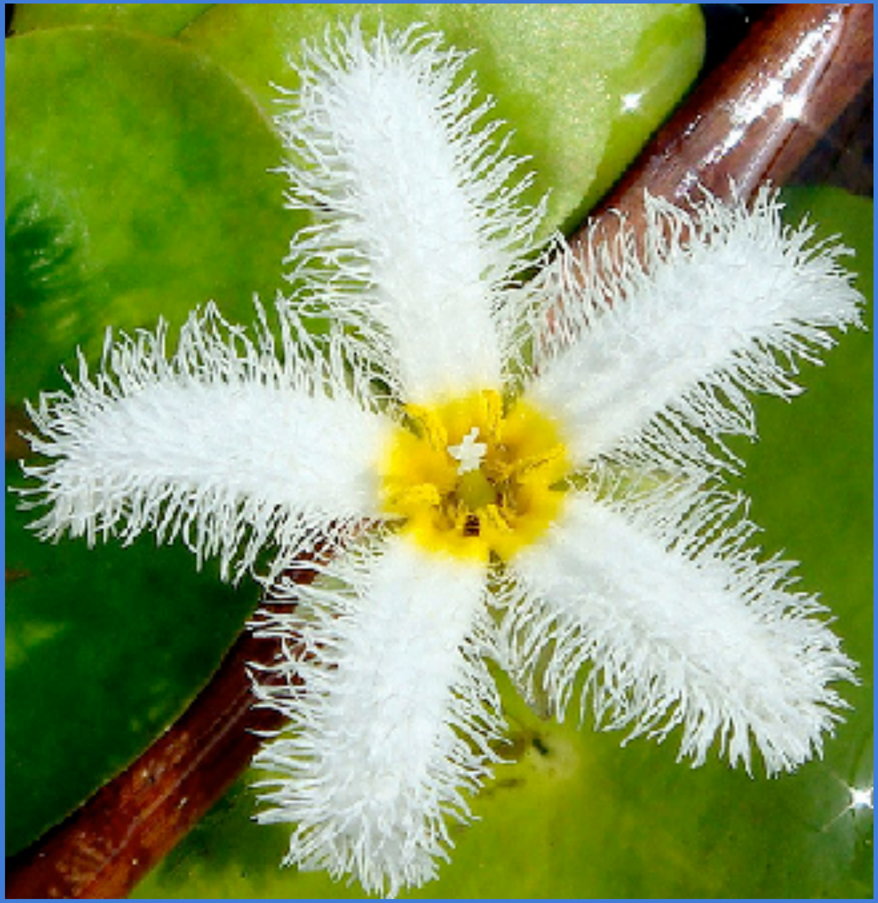
Capillary feeding by the hummingbird





Floating flowers

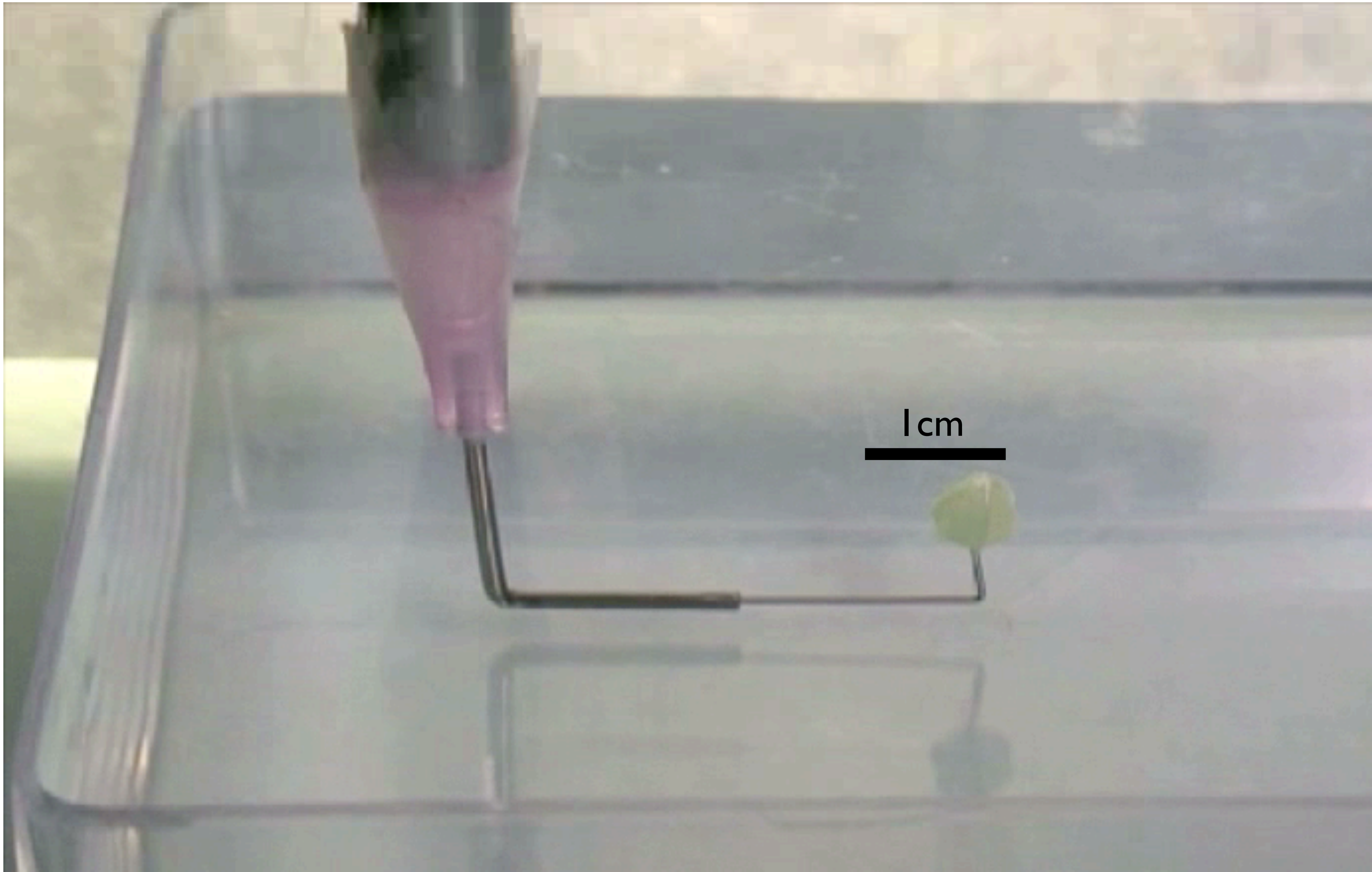
- some anchored flowers avoid flooding by folding



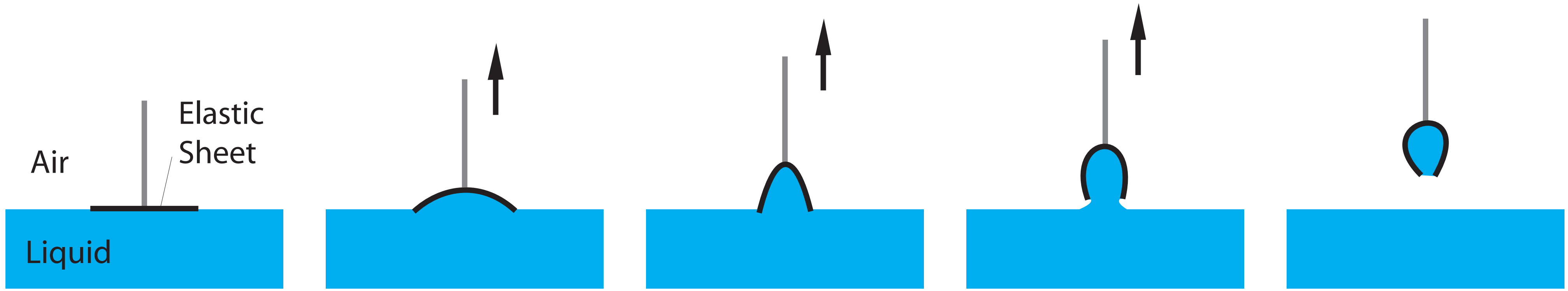
Menyanthaceae
Armstrong, Americ. J. of Bot. (2002)

3D polymer flowers:

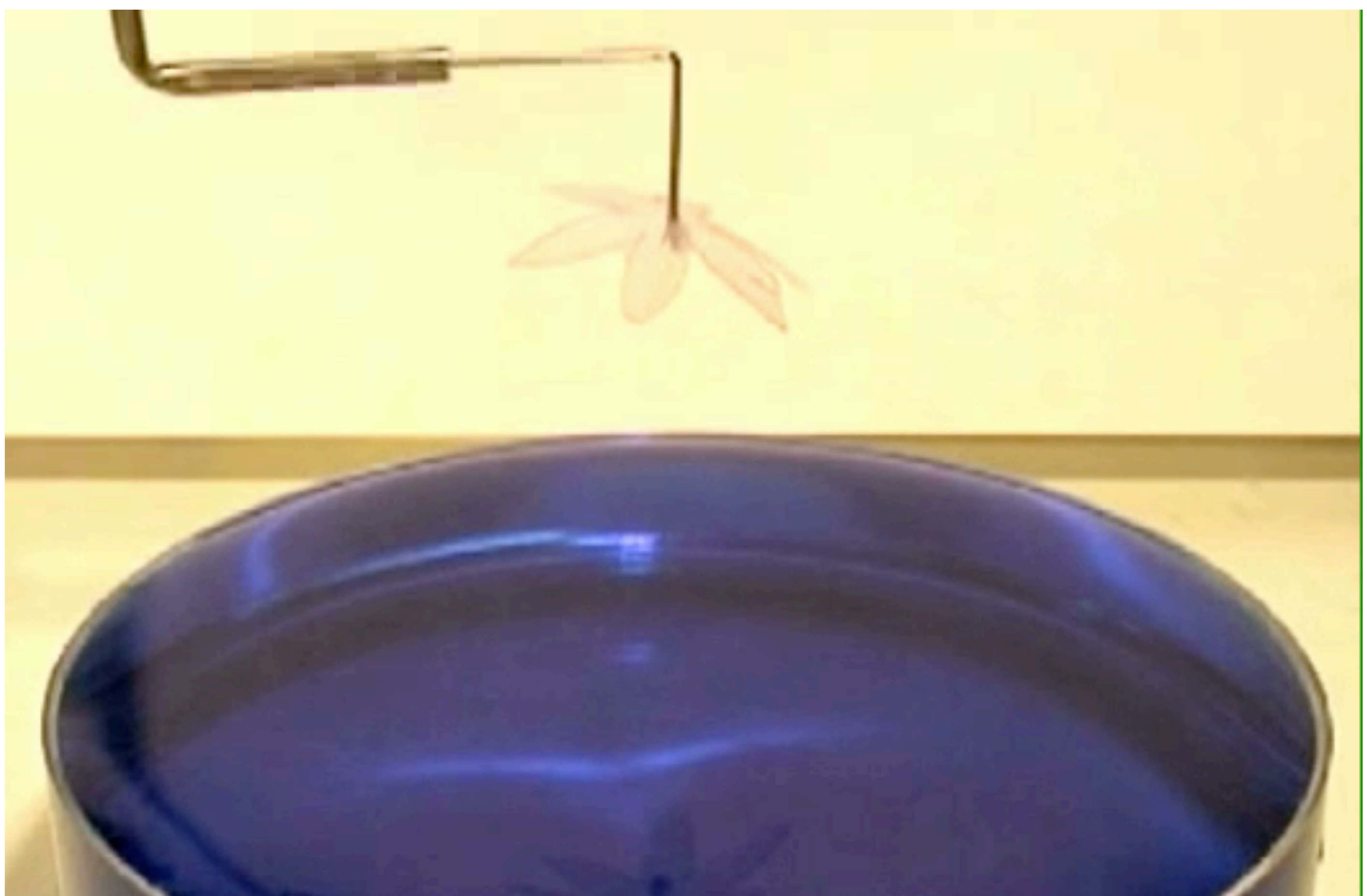
Vinylpolysiloxane (similar to PDMS)
thickness ~ 250μm
size ~ 10mm



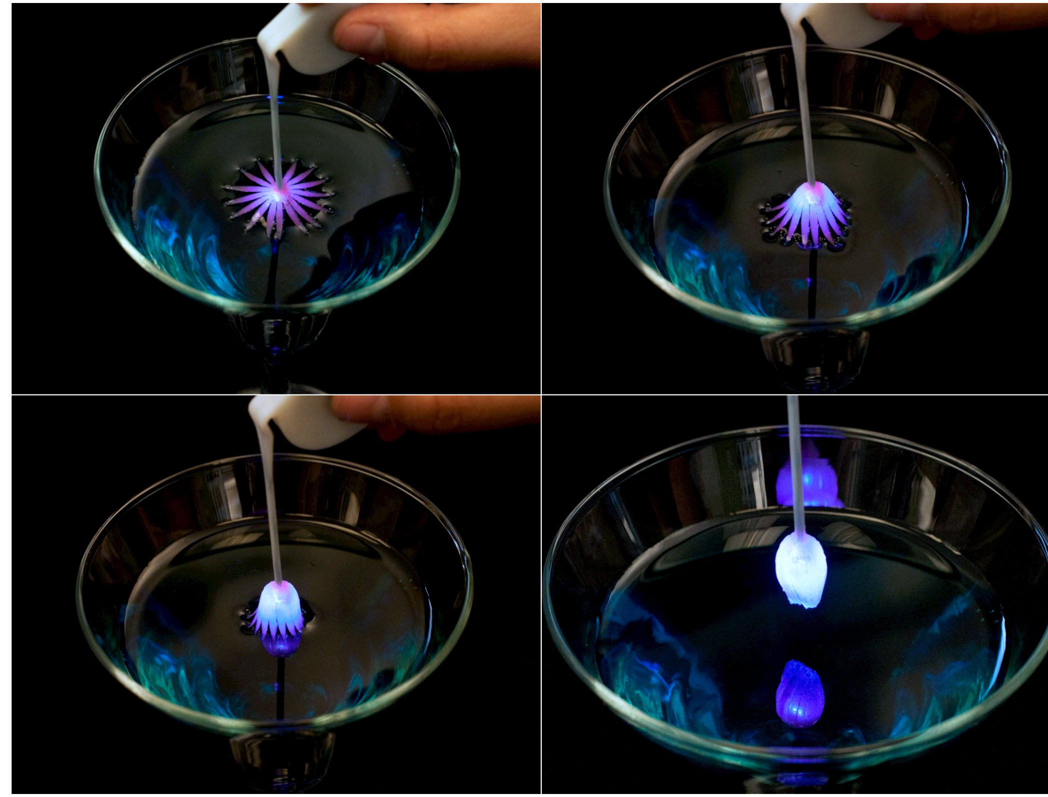
The elastocapillary pipette: grabbing fluid at the interface



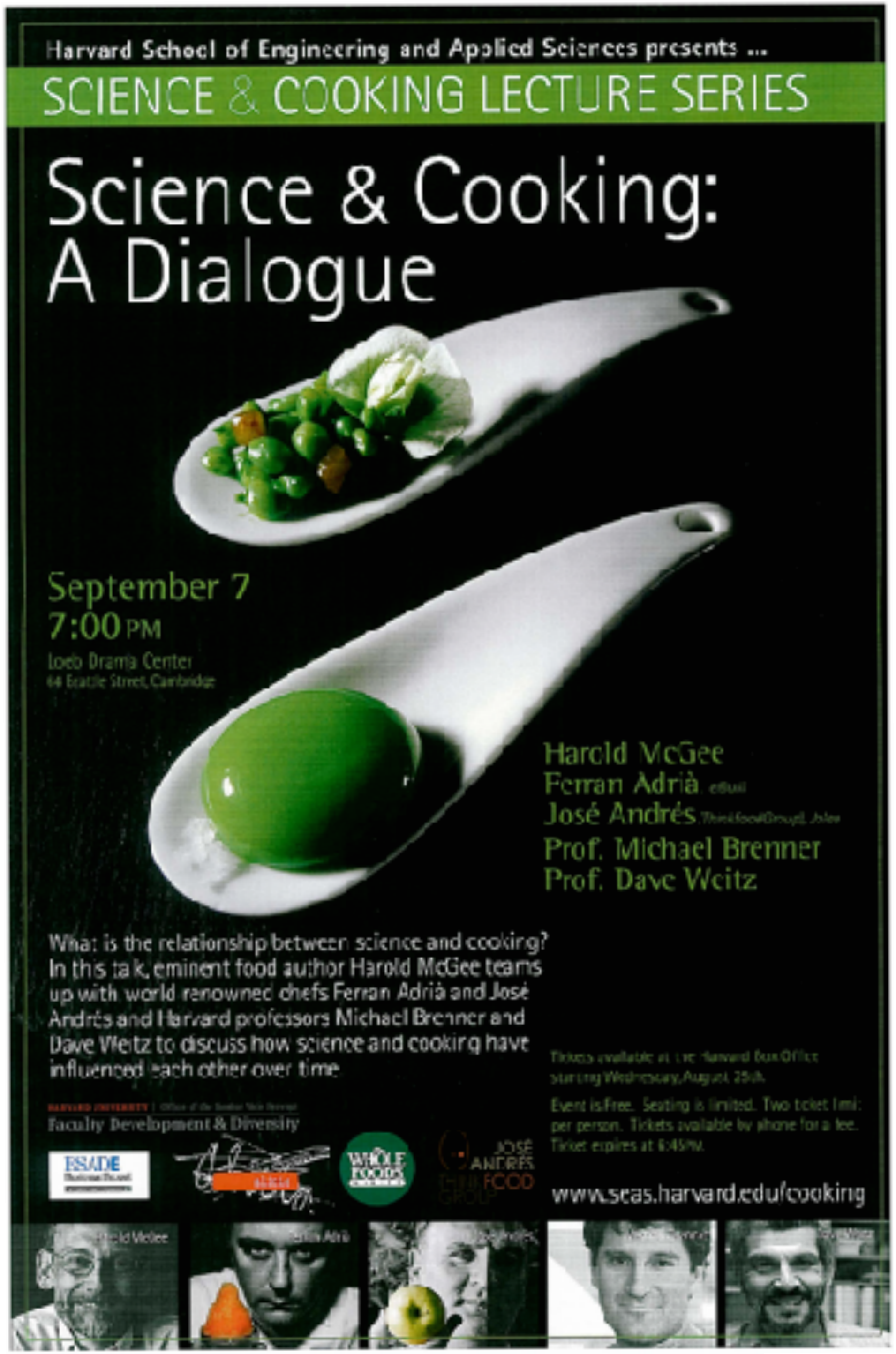
Is this mechanism used somewhere in nature for drinking?



The Floral Pipette



- implemented with Jose Andres' ThinkFood Group for use in Minibar
- flowers used to serve small volumes of palette-cleansing liqueurs
- flowers composed of edible, flavored gels

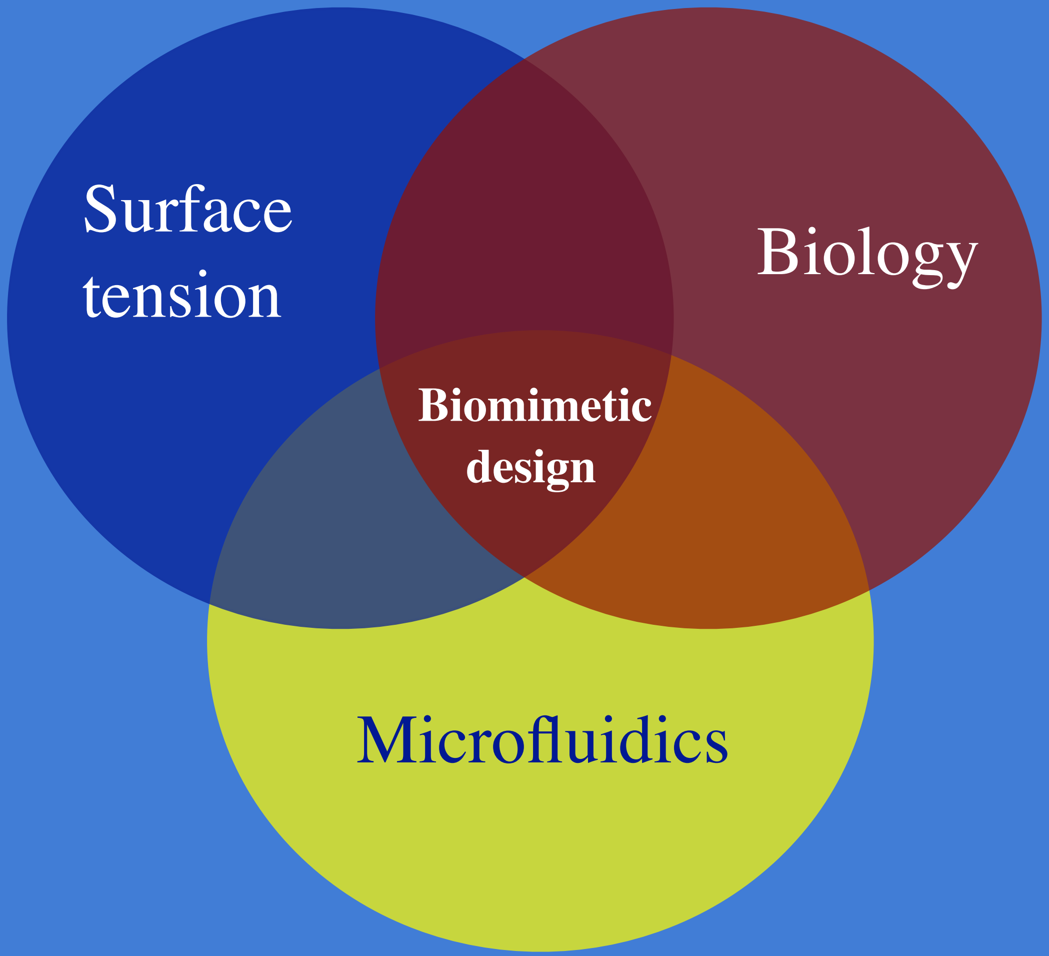


Jose Andres, ThinkFood Group

World Central Kitchen

MOTIVATION

- to rationalize Nature's designs



Bonus: to inspire and inform biomimetic design

" I was stunned by the perfection of the insects."

- Pablo Neruda