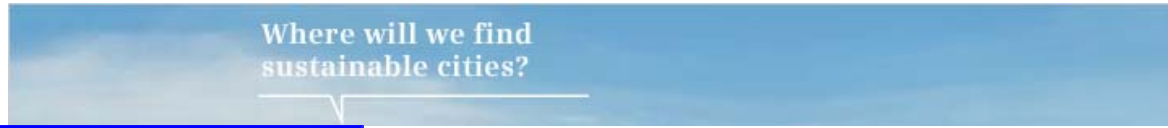


x24,x03,BottomLeft,x30,x12

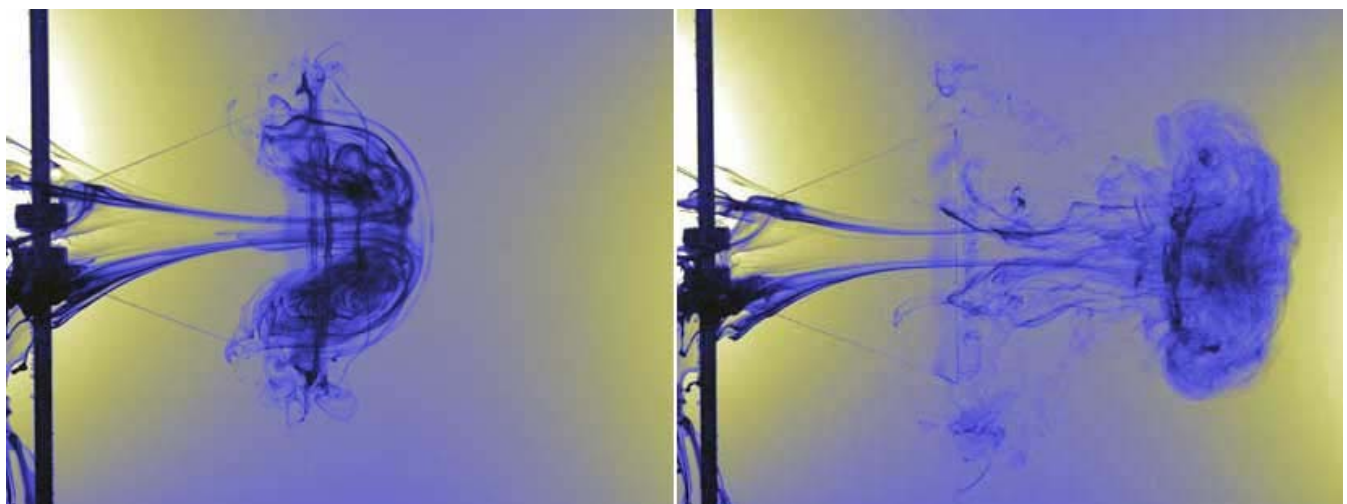
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Big Pic: Testing Flapping Wings Underwater



Swirling Vortexes Made Visible in Water: Engineers are keen on building tiny flying vehicles the size of hummingbirds and other small animals that can be used for surveillance or to explore disaster areas. But at those small sizes, conventional aerodynamics no longer apply. Instead of the kind of streamlined flow that occurs over jet wings, small bird wings create swirling flows similar to patterns that occur when canoe paddles push through the water.

So to learn more about that, Matthew Ringuette, assistant professor at the University of Buffalo UB conducts research to measure the velocity and forces at work in vortex formation. This image shows how in water, these flapping-wing models can produce at larger scales vortex formation similar to that exhibited by birds, insects and some fish.

Photo: University of Buffalo

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