

Cover Picture

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The cover picture shows a cowpea plant heavily infected with cowpea mosaic virus (background). A simple isolation procedure provides high yields of pure virus, which can be derivatized selectively by chemical reagents. The particles therefore behave in many respects like prefabricated dendrimers on a nanochemical (30 nm diameter) scale. Their polyvalency is highlighted by the foreground image, showing a cryo-electron microscopy analysis of the virus bearing gold clusters at each of 60 reactive cysteine residues introduced by site-directed mutagenesis. Further details are reported by J. E. Johnson and M. G. Finn and co-workers on p. 459ff.

