

New Scientist

WEEKLY 19 July 2025

CHASING THE NUMBER AT
THE EDGE OF MATHS

WHY THE GEOENGINEERING
DEBATE HAS NEVER BEEN
MORE URGENT

WHAT SHAMANISM
REVEALS ABOUT THE
HUMAN MIND

THE TRUTH ABOUT DE-EXTINCTION

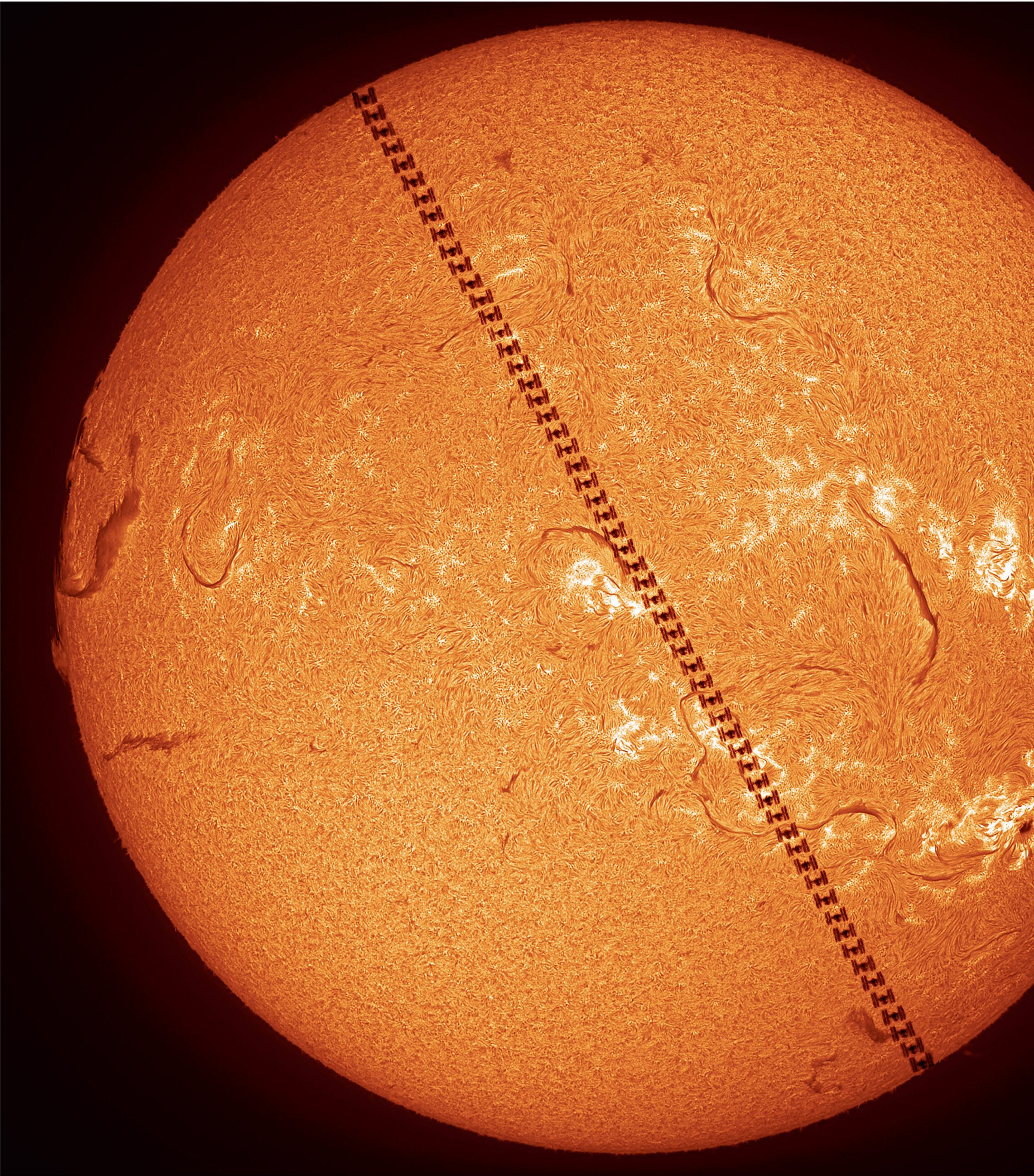
Can dire wolves, mammoths and other animals really
be brought back from the dead – and should we do it?



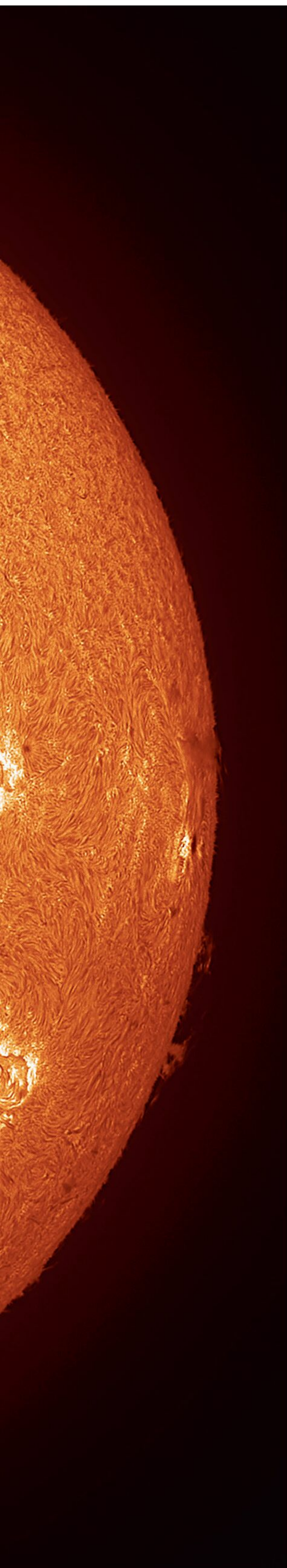
PLUS
TREES GROW BETTER ON STREETS / **PLASMA WAVES ON JUPITER** /
NEW HAY FEVER TREATMENT / HOW TO SPOT A DARK EMPATH

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ENCOUNTER WITHIN ONE SECOND © ZHANG YANGUANG



CLOSE-UP OF A COMET © GERALD RHEMANN AND MICHAEL JÄGER



DRAGON TREE TRAILS © BENJAMIN BARAKAT

Starstruck



ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year, Royal Observatory Greenwich

THE International Space Station (ISS) scrolling across the sun, a relative close-up of a comet and an otherworldly tree framed by rotating stars are all shortlisted for this year's ZWO Astronomy Photographer of the Year contest.

At far left is Zhang Yanguang's *Encounter Within One Second*: a superimposed series of shots of the silhouetted ISS as it passes directly between Earth and the sun. The space station's large solar panels, which harvest energy from that very same star, are clearly visible. The photographer used two optical filters to isolate specific wavelengths and highlight crisp details of the sun's broiling surface.

Next, clockwise, is a close-up image of comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) by Gerald Rhemann and Michael Jäger, taken from Namibia. Comets have two tails – one made of dust and one of gas – and here they appear to have almost overlapped due to high solar winds.

The final image is *Dragon Tree Trails* by Benjamin Barakat, taken in Firmihin Forest on the Yemenese island of Socotra. A dragon blood tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*) takes centre stage, framed perfectly by the starscape created by merging 300 individual exposures.

This year, the competition attracted more than 5500 entries from 69 countries. The winners in nine categories, two special prizes and the overall winner will be announced on 11 September and the winning images will be displayed in an exhibition at London's National Maritime Museum from 12 September. ■

Matthew Sparkes