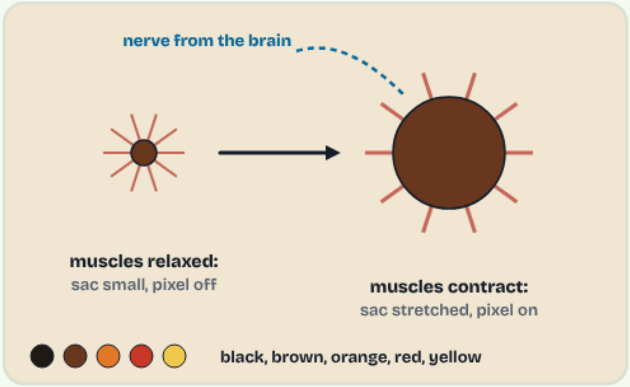
That is why

How does cuttlefish skin work like a screen?

Millions of pigment sacs, opened by muscles on orders from the brain, can play moving patterns in the blink of an eye.

A One pixel: the chromatophore



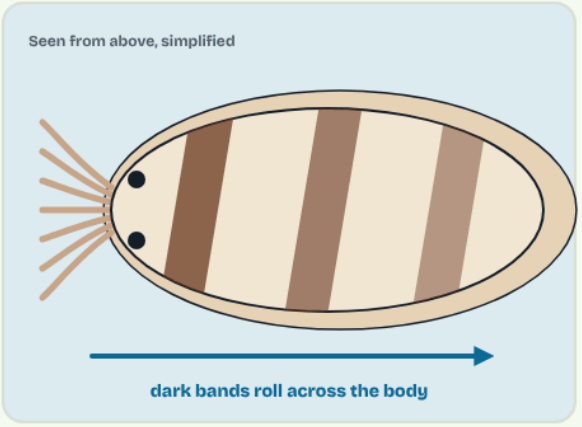
Under the pixels

Iridophores
reflect greens, blues, silvers, golds

Leucophores
mirror the colors of the surroundings

An adult cuttlefish can have several million chromatophores. Skin can also rise into bumps.

B The passing cloud



1 Organized waves

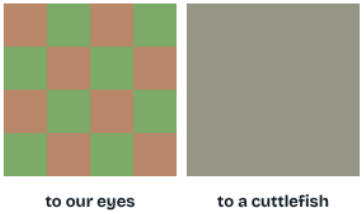
4 regions a side, in step; speed varies 6-fold.

2 What is it for?

Seen while hunting, swimming, mating, resting.

Its purpose is still "highly speculative," scientists say.

C Colorblind, yet hidden



Same brightness = no pattern to see

1 Brightness, not color

They seem to match how light or dark things are.

2 Sharp on contrast

They spot differences as small as 15%.

Millions of pixels, wired to the brain: a screen made of skin.

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Diagram: https://thatiswhy.com/diagrams/why-cuttlefish-skin-screen/ · Full guide: https://thatiswhy.com/why-cuttlefish-dont-just-change-color/