

Armor of tomorrow could be derived from these 3 animals

Scientists are investigating what makes conch shells and [fish scales](#) so tough and designing their own versions. They're even turning to materials like [spider silk](#) and dreaming up new, protective functions for the super-strong goo. In a few years, these new armors could show up in bulletproof vests, protective gloves, sports helmets, and even athletic wear. [...] Here are three ways that animals are helping us protect ourselves.

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The [alligator gar](#) is not an easy fish to kill. Found in the waters of southern states like Louisiana and Texas, it sports nearly impenetrable scales. [...] That makes it ideal inspiration for flexible armors that can stand up to punctures and lacerations.

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[Conches](#) are a good inspiration for armor because their shells represent some of the strongest armors found in nature. These animals build impact-resistant homes that are 10 times [tougher than](#) nacre, or mother of pearl.

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Spiders aren't known for being heavily armored. Yet their silk has to be sturdy enough to capture prey, or help them dangle from your ceiling or [sail through the air](#). A single strand of spider silk is strong enough to halt flying insects [tens of thousands](#) of times its own weight. [...] Researchers around the world are pondering how to make artificial spider silk and spin it into bulletproof vests.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Three animals inspiring the armor of the future](#)