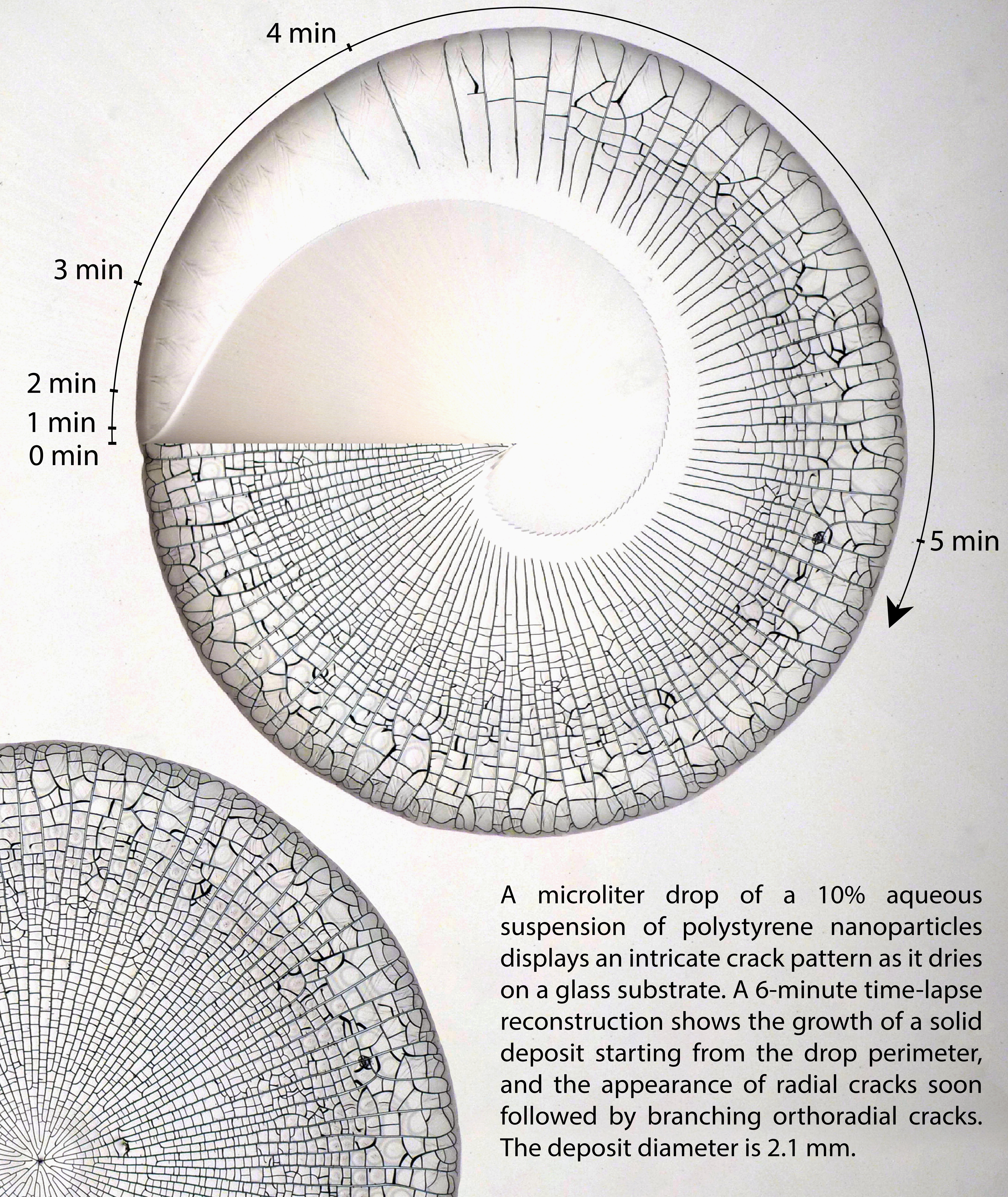


# Shattered to pieces: cracks in drying drops

Paul Lilin, Irmgard Bischofberger - MIT



A microliter drop of a 10% aqueous suspension of polystyrene nanoparticles displays an intricate crack pattern as it dries on a glass substrate. A 6-minute time-lapse reconstruction shows the growth of a solid deposit starting from the drop perimeter, and the appearance of radial cracks soon followed by branching orthoradial cracks. The deposit diameter is 2.1 mm.