Science or Fiction?
Spiderman, the hero that belongs to our imaginary, might not be so far from the real world, according to Nicola Pugno , a
physicist of the Politecnico di Torino in Italy. He claims that by mimicking nature, thanks to carbon-nanotube-based
technology, humans could soon do the same by donning a sticky "Spiderman suit" woven. In his article, published last
week in J. Phys.: Condens. Matter, he suggests that a man can theoretically be supported by a transparent cable with
cross-section of 1 cm2 and feasibly, with spider material gloves and boots, could remain attached even to a ceiling: a
preliminary step towards a Spiderman suit. Nanointerlocking, capillary and van der Waals forces, all potential adhesive
mechanisms, are discussed, demonstrating the key role played by hierarchy in the design of superhydrophobic, i.e. self-
cleaning and superadhesive materials. If you want to know more, "stick" to nanotechweb.Carla Joana Silva
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