

Indigo: new tricks for a very, very, very, old dog

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Abstract

The famous dye molecule indigo is considerably older, but only slightly more colourful than Fred. Used as a textile pigment for thousands of years, it (the dye, not Fred) remains an industrially important chemical as the main colorant for blue jeans. However, the chemistry of indigo remains largely unexplored, probably due in part to its very low solubility in most common solvents. In this presentation I will describe my group's progress in functionalizing indigo in ways which open up new vistas in the physicochemical (materials) properties and coordination chemistry of this fascinating species.

