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BACTERIA LINK TO HUMAN FRAILTIES

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09:00 - 16 November 2007

Bacteria display human traits like pursuing their own short term interests by cheating on the rest of the population, Notts researchers found.

But bugs also co-operate for the good of their own family.

Scientists from the University of Nottingham, along with colleagues from the University of Edinburgh had work published in the journal Nature.

The research reveals that the problem of exploitation arises in bacteria.

The study could lead to new areas of research in the treatment of infections such as those found in people with cystic fibrosis.

Steve Diggle found bacteria "...communicate with each other, preferentially direct aid towards close relatives and even cheat on each other".

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