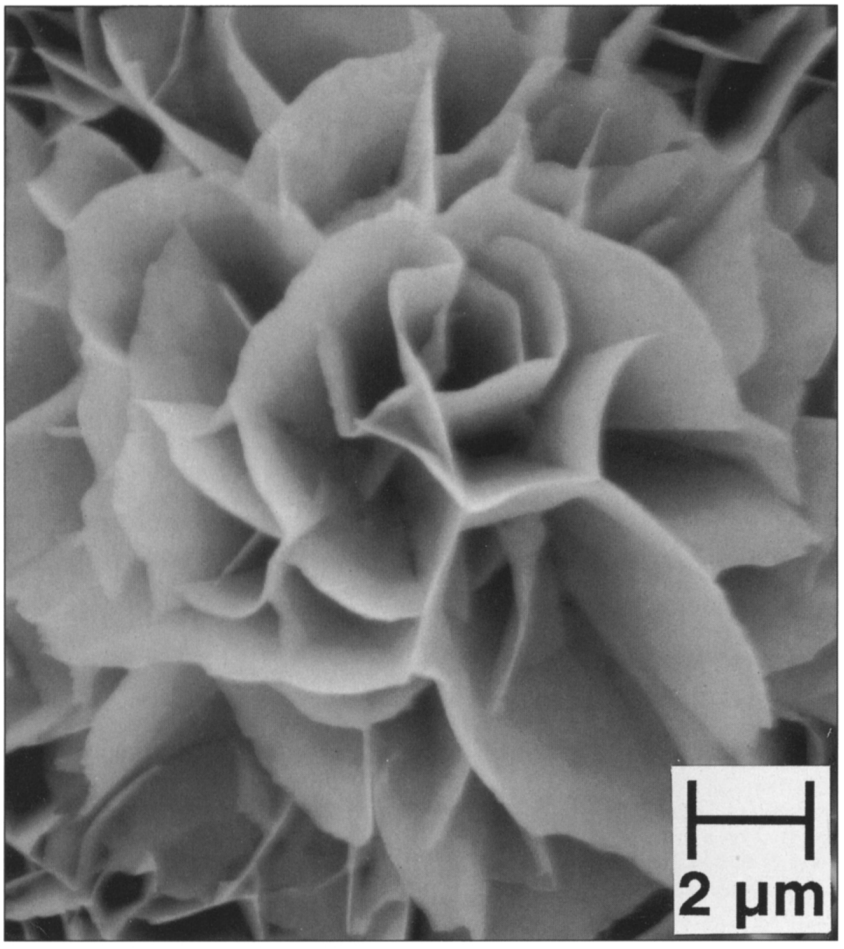
Figures appearing in EDITOR'S CHOICE *are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.*



A rose by any other name would smell as sweet but not this rose. No slick flowery clichés sliding off the poet's tongue could camouflage the remnant scent of the petals in this month's EDITOR'S CHOICE. Although presenting flowers is known to lubricate human relations, that tactic works less well when they smell like rotten eggs (not to mention being only 14 μm across). Grown not from fertile soil but from deposition on the (100) face of a silicon crystal, this most inorganic of blossoms is composed of primarily crystalline molybdenum disulphide (MoS_2). You have likely guessed that the unaesthetic odor is dihydrogen sulphide (H_2S) gas left over from the chemical vapor deposition process where thankfully most of it was consumed by reacting with molybdenum hexafluoride (MoF_6) at the elevated temperature of 808 K. Although this field-emission scanning electron micrograph shows crystallite petals auspiciously configured as a flower in the field of view, a companion x-ray diffraction scan (not shown) reveals that they and their basal planes are rather inauspiciously oriented as a lubricant. We are told by chefs of some repute that the formation of such petals at high temperature is less characteristic of a rose than it is of a scalded cabbage. And indeed, a cabbage by another name might sport a decidedly unromantic bouquet. Whether floral or culinary expertise is involved, certainly materials researchers on a quest for lubricious films will want to read the preparation details in W.Y. Lee, T.M. Bessmann, and M.W. Stott, *J. Mater. Res.* **9** (1994) pp. 1474–1483.