

"Cryopreservation as a means of Suspended Animation"

by Ben Best

Metabolic rate declines with reduction of temperature, and some mammals use this fact to conserve resources during hibernation. Reptiles and insects can reduce metabolism even more by tolerating lower temperatures. Induced hibernation or cryopreservation could be a means of conserving resources during spaceflight. Reversible cryopreservation at cryogenic temperatures is currently demonstrable only for very small eukaryotes, but demonstrable specimen size has been increasing. Details of current and possible future technologies (including cryonics) for suspended animation through cryopreservation will be discussed.

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