



# An amphibious artificial vision system with a panoramic visual field

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**Biological visual systems have inspired the development of various artificial visual systems including those based on human eyes (terrestrial environment), insect eyes (terrestrial environment) and fish eyes (aquatic environment). However, attempts to develop systems for both terrestrial and aquatic environments remain limited, and bioinspired electronic eyes are restricted in their maximum field of view to a hemispherical field of view (around 180°). Here we report the development of an amphibious artificial vision system with a panoramic visual field inspired by the functional and anatomical structure of the compound eyes of a fiddler crab. We integrate a microlens array with a graded refractive index and a flexible comb-shaped silicon photodiode array on a spherical structure. The microlenses have a flat surface and maintain their focal length regardless of changes in the external refractive index between air and water. The comb-shaped image sensor arrays on the spherical substrate exhibit an extremely wide field of view covering almost the entire spherical geometry. We illustrate the capabilities of our system via optical simulations and imaging demonstrations in both air and water.**

In nature, diverse vision systems with distinct imaging characteristics have evolved under different natural habitats. These have inspired the development of various artificial vision systems, including human-eye-type (terrestrial environment)<sup>1–4</sup>, insect-eye-type (terrestrial environment)<sup>5,6</sup> and fish-eye-type (aquatic environment)<sup>7</sup> artificial vision. The fiddler crab (*Uca arcuata*), which lives in an intertidal region (both terrestrial and aquatic environment)<sup>8</sup>, has developed compound eyes with flat-face lenses that offer amphibious imaging capabilities and a panoramic visual field<sup>9,10</sup>. The flat nature and graded refractive index (RI) of the corneal facet lens suppresses the defocusing effect caused by changes in the external environment<sup>10</sup>, and the structure of the compound eyes, which covers almost the entire eye stalk, enables an extremely wide field of view (FoV)<sup>9</sup>. Other crustaceans<sup>11,12</sup> and insects<sup>13</sup> living at the boundary between terrestrial and aquatic regions also have eyes with a flat corneal lens and a graded RI structure for amphibious imaging. These vision systems have inspired the development of artificial vision, but previous efforts to imitate the natural graded RI have focused on aberration correction<sup>13</sup> and antireflection<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, currently available bioinspired electronic eyes are limited in their maximum FoV to a hemispherical FoV (around 180°) and thus do not offer omnidirectional FoV (around 360°)<sup>3,5,7</sup>.

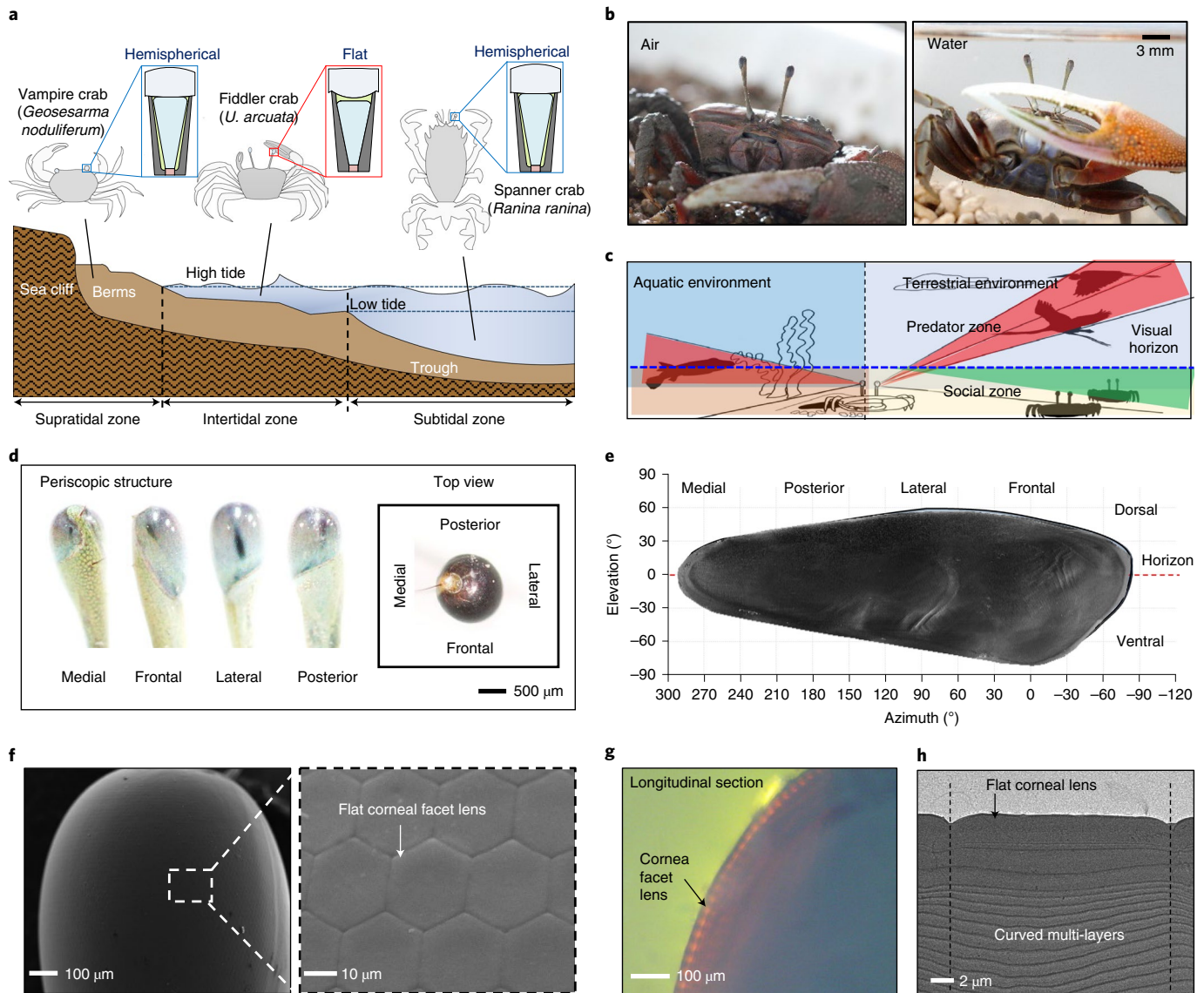
In this Article, we report an amphibious artificial vision system with a panoramic FoV by mimicking the functional and anatomical structure of the fiddler crab eye. Microlens arrays with a flat surface and graded RI profile are integrated on flexible comb-shaped

silicon photodiode (Si PD) arrays, which are mounted on a three-dimensional (3D) spherical structure. The flat surface and graded RI profile of the microlens were optimized to have a consistent focusing power regardless of external RI changes. The integrated device exhibits an extremely wide FoV covering almost the entire 3D space. We illustrate the panoramic image acquisition capabilities of the integrated system under both air and water conditions. This approach to artificial vision could be used to develop imaging systems for panoramic motion detection and obstacle avoidance in variable environments.

## Investigation of the anatomy of the fiddler crab eye

Some crabs that live in both terrestrial and aquatic environments have developed unique visual systems for amphibious and panoramic imaging<sup>15,16</sup>. Specifically, semiterrestrial crabs (for example, fiddler crabs; Fig. 1a, centre)<sup>10</sup> possess flattened corneas that enable amphibious imaging. Other types of crab, such as terrestrial<sup>16–20</sup> and aquatic<sup>21–23</sup> crabs (for example, vampire crabs and spanner crabs; Fig. 1a, left and right, respectively) that do not need amphibious imaging have curved corneas. Supplementary Table 1 provides more information about the ocular structures of crab families. Fiddler crabs have also evolved stalked eyes to enable omnidirectional viewing in both air and water (Fig. 1b). Thus, they can instantly avoid predators flying overhead (predator zone; Fig. 1c, red region) and detect conspecifics approaching their burrows<sup>8</sup> (social zone; Fig. 1c, green region). The ellipsoidal structure of the fiddler crab eye provides it with a panoramic FoV (Fig. 1d). The distribution map of

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**Fig. 1 | Structural characteristics of the fiddler crab eye.** **a**, Crab families that inhabit neritic zones, and the ommatidium structure for each crab species. **b**, *Uca arcuata* in the terrestrial (left) and aquatic (right) environment. **c**, Visual ecology of the fiddler crab. **d**, Panoramic structure of a fiddler crab eye from the top view. **e**, Visual map reconstructed from the fiddler crab ommatidia. **f**, SEM image of the fiddler crab eye (left) and its magnified view (right). **g**, Optical microscopy image of the longitudinally sectioned fiddler crab eye. **h**, Cross-sectional TEM image of a single lens in an ommatidium of the fiddler crab eye.

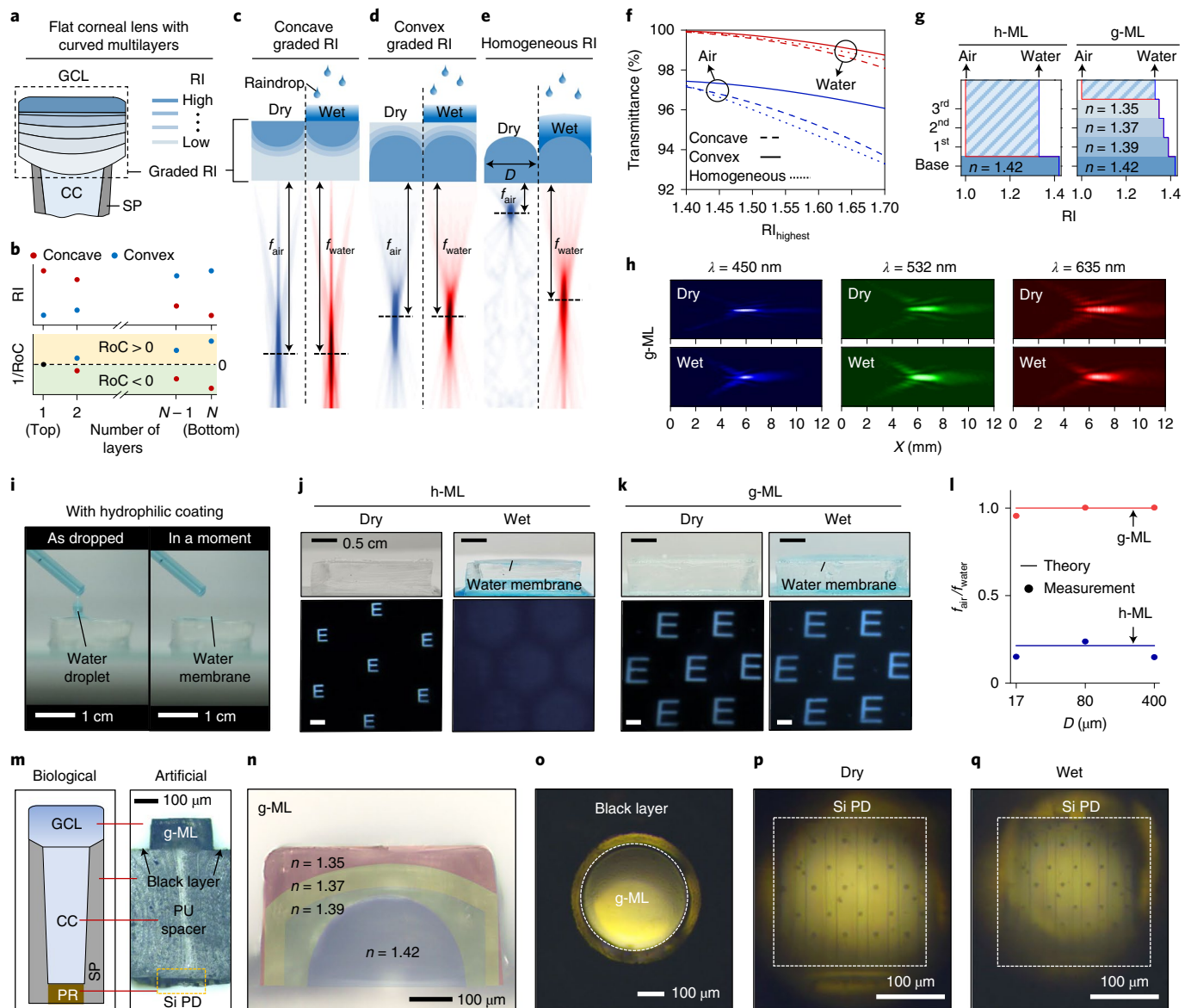
the ommatidia in the fiddler crab eye shows their full wide angular coverage ( $360^\circ$ ) along the visual horizon (Fig. 1e).

Amphibious vision, which is associated with a flat corneal lens and graded RI structure in the ommatidia of the fiddler crab eye, exploits the panoramic visual advantages in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. To study the lens morphology, a fiddler crab eye was observed by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The eye consists of thousands of ommatidia (Fig. 1f, left). The surface of the corneal facet lens in an ommatidium is flat (Fig. 1f, right). The lenses in the compound eyes of terrestrial arthropods, in contrast, have curved surfaces (Extended Data Fig. 1). An observation of the longitudinal section of the eye using optical microscopy confirmed that the lens has a smooth flat surface (Fig. 1g). This flat corneal lens experiences little change in the focusing power even when the external medium changes. Meanwhile, according to the cross-sectional observation of a single lens using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), a flat top surface and concavely curved multilayers are

observed (Fig. 1h). Such curved multilayers enable the focusing of incoming light onto photoreceptors (PRs) even though fiddler crabs have a flat corneal lens<sup>10,24</sup>.

### Characterization of the amphibious artificial ommatidium

Figure 2a displays important optical parts of a natural ommatidium of the fiddler crab, such as graded-index corneal lens (GCL), crystalline cone (CC) and screening pigment (SP). The SP blocks noisy light from adjacent ommatidia<sup>10</sup>. As shown in Fig. 1h, the concave multilayers are located under the flat GCL. In the natural world, however, there are two optical structures to implement the graded RI with a flat top surface: (1) the upper layers have a higher RI and the curvature of multilayers is concave<sup>11</sup> or (2) the upper layers have a lower RI and the curvature of multilayers is convex<sup>25</sup>. Fig. 2b graphically summarizes the differences of these two structures. The concavely or convexly curved multilayers with graded RIs should have a negative radius of curvature (RoC) with descending RIs or a



**Fig. 2 | Optical simulation and experimental characterization of microlenses for amphibious imaging.** **a**, Schematic of the natural ommatidium. **b**, RI and RoC changes in concavely and convexly curved multilayers for graded RI depending on the number of layers. **c–e**, Ray-tracing optical simulation results of the microlenses with the concave multilayers of graded RI (**c**), convex multilayers of graded RI (**d**) and typical microlenses with a homogeneous RI (**e**) in the dry and wet state. **f**, Transmittance versus RI of the topmost layer in multilayered lenses with graded and homogeneous RIs. **g**, RI profile of h-ML (left) and g-ML (right). **h**, Measured light intensity distribution of g-ML for three wavelengths in air and water. **i**, Photographs to show instant conversion of a water droplet into a water membrane by the hydrophilic coating on g-ML. **j,k**, Imaging results by h-ML (**i**) and g-ML (**j**) ( $D = 400 \mu\text{m}$ ) under the dry and wet condition. The coloured (sky blue) water membrane in the wet condition is shown on the microlens surface. **l**, Ratio of the focal length in air and water for g-ML and h-ML with various diameters. **m**, Comparison of the biological (left) and artificial (right) ommatidium. **n**, Magnified cross-sectional view of g-ML. The colourized layers show the graded interlayer structure and flat surface of g-ML. **o**, Photograph of the g-ML surface. **p,q**, Photographs of a photodiode taken through the g-ML in air (**p**) and water (**q**).

positive RoC with ascending RIs, respectively. The flat top surface is expressed as  $1/\text{RoC} = 0$  because of an infinite RoC.

Ray-tracing simulations confirm that both types of multilayer exhibit amphibious focusing capabilities, which are evaluated by adding a layer of water to the surface of each lens (Fig. 2c,d). The graded RI lenses with flat top surfaces (that is, concave and convex graded RIs) maintained each identical focal length in air and water (that is,  $f_{\text{air}}$  and  $f_{\text{water}}$ ), whereas a typical lens structure, which has no flat top surface, could not, which was attributed to the flat surface and graded RI (Fig. 2e). The typical lens corresponds to optical structures of a terrestrial arthropod eye (Extended Data Fig. 1),

and hence, terrestrial arthropod eyes lose their focusing power once they are in water. The RoC of the graded-index layers determines the focal length of the microlens with graded RI (Supplementary Fig. 1). The specifications of the simulated microlenses are listed in Supplementary Table 2.

Although both microlenses with concavely and convexly curved multilayers exhibit the amphibious feature, the convex gradient can be fabricated more easily than the concave gradient. Furthermore, graded RI multilayers with the convex curvature have an additional advantage, that is, the antireflection effect, which is helpful for the underwater condition with a weaker ambient light intensity than the

terrestrial region. The simulation result (Fig. 2f) demonstrates the antireflection effect of the convex RI gradient (that is, the highest transmittance for all the  $RI_{\text{highest}}$  values in air and water), whereas it is difficult to obtain the antireflection effect with a concave RI gradient owing to its structural limitation such as the highest RI at the top surface. Therefore, the convex curvature geometry was selected for the graded microlens (g-ML) with a flat surface. As a control group of g-ML, a typical lens structure with a homogeneous RI was used and called as a homogeneous microlens (h-ML). The RI values for the h-ML and g-ML are shown in Fig. 2g. The amphibious feature of the fabricated g-ML (diameter,  $\sim 400\ \mu\text{m}$ ) was characterized in air and water at three wavelengths (for example, 450, 532 and 635 nm) (Fig. 2h). Identical focal lengths were obtained in air and water.

For all-weather imaging, a water droplet on the lenses should become a water membrane because a water droplet on the g-ML can cause the blurring of focal spots owing to the curvature of the water droplet. A hydrophilic coating using silica nanoparticles allows the instant conversion of the water droplet into a water membrane on the g-ML (Fig. 2i). Supplementary Fig. 2 shows the effect of a hydrophilic coating in more detail. With hydrophilic coatings, imaging demonstrations using g-MLs and h-MLs with diameters of  $400\ \mu\text{m}$  confirmed the amphibious feature of the g-MLs (Fig. 2j,k). The g-MLs formed clear images (that is, the letter 'E') either with or without the water layer, whereas the h-MLs could not. The water layer on the h-ML surface changed the focal length, causing the images to become blurred. The focusing abilities of the g-ML and h-ML in air and water were compared at various scales (microlens diameters of 17, 80 and  $400\ \mu\text{m}$ ) to confirm scale independence (Fig. 2l). Both theory and experiments indicated that the amphibious imaging ability of g-MLs is consistent regardless of the lens size. Extended Data Fig. 2 presents the detailed characterization results for the microlenses, and Extended Data Fig. 3 shows the experimental setup and other measurement results. Supplementary Note 1 provides the details of the experimental setup.

Figure 2m shows the cross section of a unit image sensing pixel with a g-ML (right), which mimics the geometry of a fiddler crab ommatidium (left). A unit pixel (that is, artificial ommatidium) consists of a flat g-ML, polyurethane (PU) elastomeric spacer and Si PD, which mimic the flat-facet lens, CC and PR of the fiddler crab ommatidium, respectively. A black layer coated around the lens blocks the stray light<sup>26</sup>, as the SP does in the fiddler crab eye. The magnified cross-sectional view of the g-ML (Fig. 2n) shows that multilayered lenses with different RIs are stacked on the base lens. The g-ML array is fabricated on a PU spacer via multiple soft moulding processes (Extended Data Fig. 4). Figure 2o shows the g-ML surface, and incident light can be focused onto the Si PD regardless of external RI changes (Fig. 2p,q).

### Assembled artificial vision system for panoramic imaging

As the ocular shape of the fiddler crab eye determines the equatorial spatial resolution and vertical FoV ( $\text{FoV}_v$ )<sup>10</sup>, ray density simulations were performed for three ocular structures (Fig. 3a,b) to optimize the ocular shape of artificial vision. Supplementary Note 2 provides the simulation details. In the prolate structure, which is similar to the fiddler crab eye, a high density of rays is found near the equator, but rays are not observed at a large  $\text{FoV}_v$  (Fig. 3b, top). In contrast, in the oblate structure, rays can be found at a large  $\text{FoV}_v$  (such as  $70^\circ$  or  $-70^\circ$ ), but the density of the equatorial ray decreases drastically, compared with that of the prolate structure (Fig. 3b, bottom). In the spherical structure, a balance between these two can be obtained (Fig. 3b, middle). Thus, the spherical structure was chosen for the 3D substrate structure to consider both viewing angle coverage and equatorial spatial resolution. The optical simulations for various ocular shapes display the trade-off relation between the  $\text{FoV}_v$  and horizontal ray density (density within  $\text{FoV}_v$  range of approximately  $-30^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$ ) (Fig. 3c). In nature, some compound eyes have evolved

to have various ellipsoidal shapes (that is, prolate and oblate shapes) or spheres (Supplementary Table 3). The simulation result indicates that the diverse shapes of the eyes can offer various combinations of  $\text{FoV}_v$  and horizontal ray density. Hence, the different geometries of an artificial vision system can be designed and engineered according to the purpose of the application.

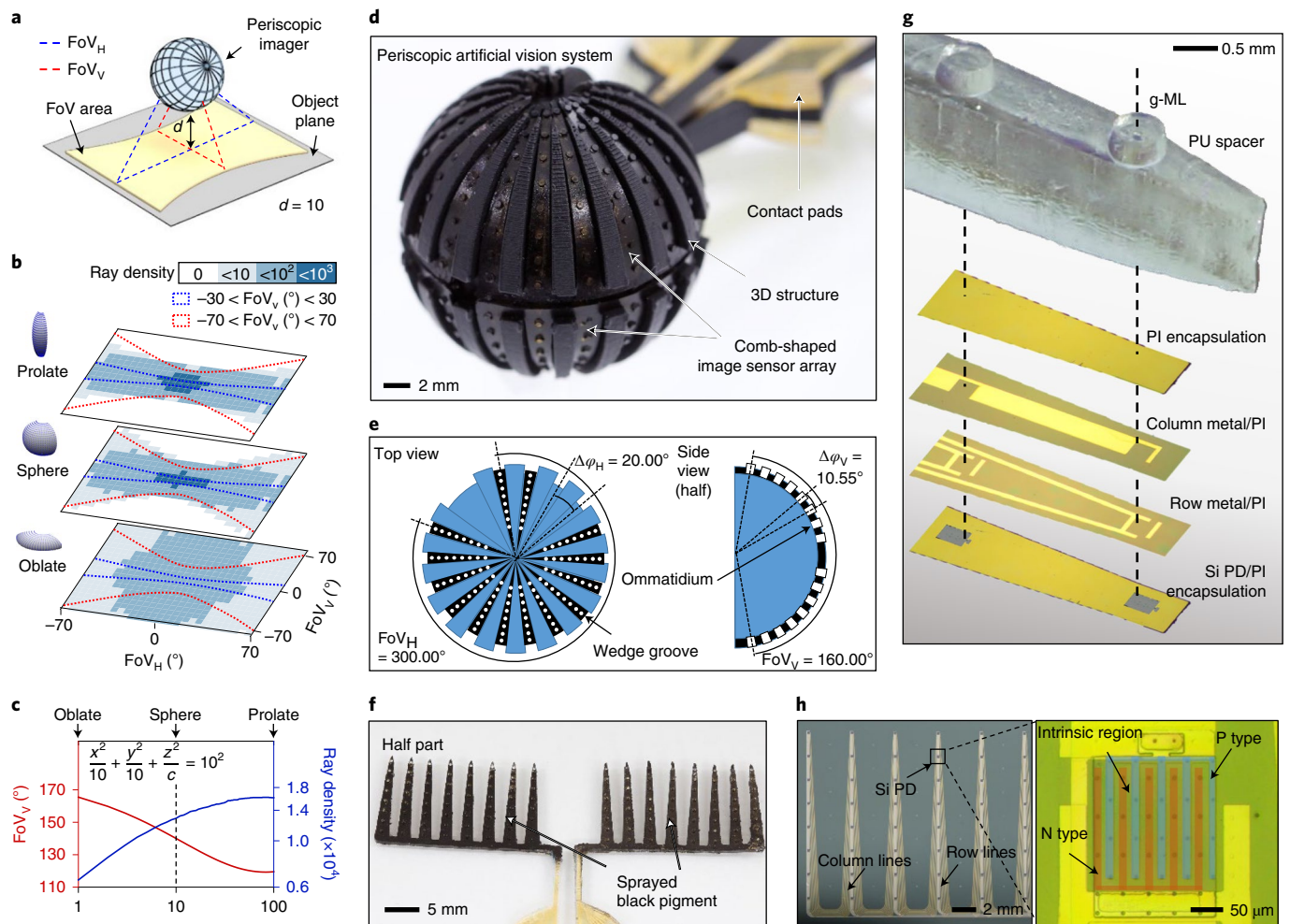
Figure 3d shows the artificial ommatidia integrated on a 3D spherical structure for panoramic vision. As the fiddler crab eye covers almost the entire visual space, the integrated device has pixels distributed over almost the entire 3D surface<sup>27,28</sup>. A 3D structure with wedge grooves was fabricated using a 3D printer. The image sensor and microlens arrays were placed inside grooves for deterministic assembly in 3D space. The spacing and locations of grooves were designed by considering optical screening between adjacent pixels. Specifically, two adjacent grooves have a central angle difference of  $20^\circ$  from the top view (Fig. 3e, left) and horizontal visual field ( $\text{FoV}_h$ ) covers  $300^\circ$  except the blank region for connection of the readout pad. From the side view (Fig. 3e, right), the vertical inter-ommatidial angle ( $\Delta\phi_v$ ) was set to  $10.55^\circ$ , to avoid overlap between the visual fields of neighbouring pixels, considering the acceptance angle of g-ML ( $\Delta\theta = 5.70^\circ$ ) (Extended Data Fig. 5a,b). The vertical visual field ( $\text{FoV}_v$ ) covers  $160^\circ$ . Supplementary Note 3 provides details about the acceptance angle.

Four comb-shaped image sensor arrays integrated with g-MLs (two for the top hemisphere and two for the bottom hemisphere) were assembled on the 3D structure. Each image sensor array has eight comb-like subunits, and each subunit consists of eight pixels. Figure 3f shows the image sensor arrays for one hemisphere (two arrays are connected, containing 16 subunits and 128 pixels). Figure 3g provides an exploded view of the imaging device. The photodetector layers are shown at the bottom, and g-MLs and a PU spacer are shown on the top. The photodetector is composed of ultrathin silicon (thickness,  $1.2\ \mu\text{m}$ ), metal traces (Cr/Au) and polyimide (PI) encapsulations. The g-ML array on the PU spacer is aligned with the photodetector array. Because the layers composing the g-ML have larger moduli than the base PU layer, the strain during assembly on the curved structure is negligible (Extended Data Fig. 5c–e). The proposed comb-shaped image sensor array design provides a high degree of freedom that can mimic even the outlandish eye geometries found in nature (Supplementary Table 3).

Figure 3h presents detailed images of the photodetector. The photodiode was designed as a lateral PIN-type diode<sup>29,30</sup> with an interdigitated pattern. The width and length of the blocking diode are much smaller than those of the photodiode to limit the backward current. The ultrathin photodetector array maintained stable performance during its assembly on the 3D structure owing to its flexibility<sup>31,32</sup>. The photoresponse of the photodiode is linear, exhibiting a sufficient difference between the on and off currents and is stable under mechanical bending deformations with various curvatures and independent of the surrounding materials (that is, air and water) (Supplementary Fig. 3). In principle, our system is based on the compound eye, and thus, it is difficult to have a higher spatial resolution than an imaging system imitating single-chambered eyes. However, the comb-shaped array can implement an artificial vision device with better spatial resolution through dense optical units, whose dimension is similar to the fiddler crab eye (Supplementary Figs. 4 and 5). Supplementary Note 4 discusses the potential of the high-density artificial vision system in more detail.

### Amphibious and panoramic imaging of the artificial system

In biological systems, the compound eyes of fiddler crabs have a typical inter-ommatidial angle of  $\sim 1^\circ$ , although the angle varies with respect to the position in the compound eye<sup>20</sup>. To mimic such a spatial resolution, a scanning method, which involves rotating the imaging device to have a desired inter-ommatidial angle, is exploited, and the scanning process was conducted to set the inter-ommatidial



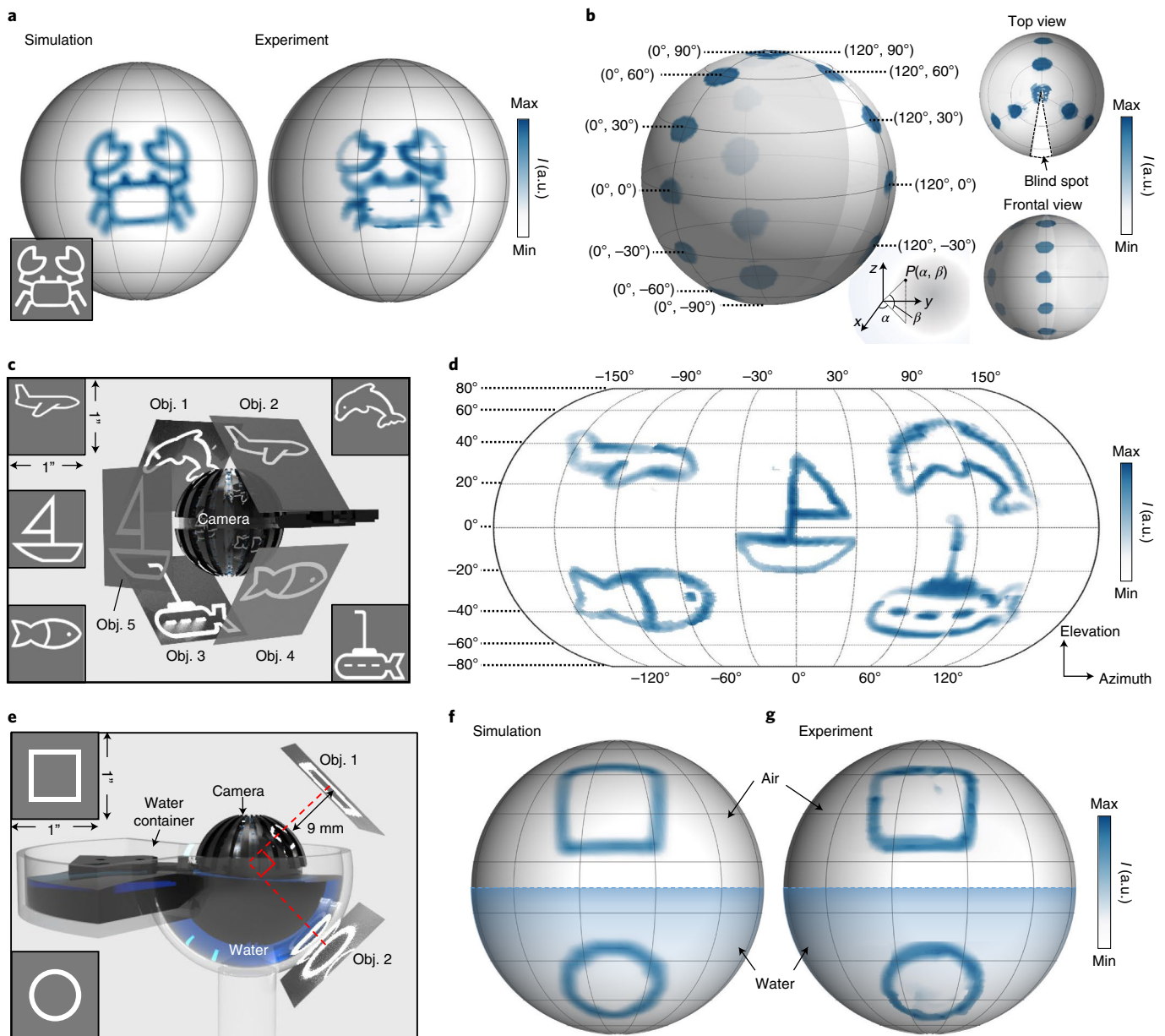
**Fig. 3 | Integrated device on a 3D structure for panoramic imaging.** **a**, Mapping of the incident rays on a 2D image plane. **b**, Simulation of the ray density distribution for various ocular structures. **c**, Simulations of  $\text{FoV}_V$  and horizontal ray density (in  $\text{FoV}_V$  range of approximately  $-30^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$ ) as a function of parameter  $c$  in the ellipsoidal equation. The oblate, spherical and prolate shapes in **b** correspond to  $c$  values of 1, 10 and 100, respectively. **d**, Photograph of artificial vision. Photodetectors and microlenses are integrated on the spherical 3D structure. The dots on the ellipsoid show the locations of the microlenses and photodetectors. **e**, Pixel distribution on the 3D structure from the top (left) and side (right) view. **f**, Comb-shaped image sensor array, which covers one hemisphere of the 3D structure. **g**, Exploded view of the comb-shaped image sensor array, which includes the polymeric microlens part (top) and photodetector part (bottom). **h**, Photograph of a photodetector array (left), and a magnified view of the photodiode with a lateral PIN structure (right).

angle of  $1^\circ$ . Supplementary Note 5 provides more details of the scanning method<sup>5</sup>. Various imaging conditions were explored through simulations to find an optimum condition (Extended Data Fig. 6). Figure 4a presents a simulation (left) and the corresponding experiment (right) for imaging, as rendered on a spherical surface with the same size as the artificial vision system. The inset shows the original image (crab pattern). The experimentally obtained image is consistent with the simulated image. For the simulation, the ideal characteristic parameters of the artificial vision system were used. Parasitic scattering within the artificial vision design can cause a partial loss of resolution and edge definition<sup>5</sup>. Supplementary Note 6 describes details of the imaging simulation.

The artificial vision system features an extremely wide FoV without off-axis aberrations owing to the microscale lens and spherical apposition design. Figure 4b presents a quantitative analysis of the FoV, which was performed using laser illuminations at points with angles between  $-120^\circ$  and  $120^\circ$  by  $120^\circ$  intervals in the horizontal direction and with angles between  $-90^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  by  $30^\circ$  intervals in the vertical direction. Due to the geometrical advantage of the artificial vision system, laser spots can be imaged over the entire visual

field, except at the posterior blind spot for the data readout connection. The visual-field simulation results show that a larger number of ommatidia contribute to the imaging when  $\Delta\theta$  and  $\Delta\phi$  are wider and narrower, respectively (Extended Data Fig. 7a–d). Additional simulations confirm that optimum angular values exist depending on the object distance (Extended Data Fig. 7e–g).

The imaging of five objects with different distances and directions (Fig. 4c) demonstrates the panoramic nature of artificial vision. Figure 4d shows an exploded view of the imaging results. The shapes, sizes and positions of the experimentally obtained images match well with the simulation results (Extended Data Fig. 8). These results show the uniform imaging capability with minimum optical aberrations and a wide FoV (that is,  $\text{FoV}_V$  of  $160^\circ$  and  $\text{FoV}_H$  of  $300^\circ$ ). To obtain equivalent imaging results using a conventional optical system with planar image sensors is challenging because of high off-axis aberrations, particularly due to geometric distortion<sup>33,34</sup>. Moreover, a modulation transfer function of the imaging device is simulated and measured using the USAF1951 target. The higher modulation transfer function (that is, sharpened image) requires smaller  $\Delta\theta$  (Supplementary Figs. 6 and 7).



**Fig. 4 | Amphibious and panoramic imaging demonstration.** **a**, Crab pattern (original image is shown in the inset) obtained by optical simulation (left; simulation) and artificial vision (right; experiment). The width and height of the object are one inch each. **b**, Images obtained by artificial vision for three sequential illuminations of six collimated laser beams are merged into one image. Six laser beams were irradiated from six different incident angles between  $-90^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  with intervals of  $30^\circ$ . The right insets show the top and front view of the merged image. **c**, Experimental setup for the panoramic imaging demonstration. Five objects (dolphin, airplane, submarine, fish and ship labelled Obj. 1–5, respectively) located at different distances (airplane, dolphin and fish at a distance of 6 mm; submarine and ship at a distance of 8 mm) were projected onto the artificial vision system from different angles. **d**, Exploded view of the panoramic imaging result. **e**, Experimental setup for the amphibious imaging demonstration. Two objects (Obj. 1 and Obj. 2) located at a distance of 9 mm were projected onto the artificial vision system with an angular difference of  $90^\circ$ . A transparent water container was filled halfway to create the amphibious environment. **f**, Image obtained by optical simulation. **g**, Image obtained by artificial vision in an amphibious (air–water) environment.

Figure 4e provides a schematic of the experimental setup for the amphibious and panoramic imaging system. To emulate the living environment of a fiddler crab, the device was installed in a container filled halfway with water. A parylene C layer (thickness,  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ ) was deposited on the assembled device by chemical vapour deposition for encapsulation. Two objects were projected from different directions to mimic the amphibious visual space of the fiddler crab. The water container was composed of a clear tough resin and fabricated by a 3D printer. Shadow masks with circular and square line

art were placed on two planar light sources, located with an angular difference of  $90^\circ$  and at a distance of 9 mm.

Figure 4f shows the simulation results obtained with the ideal characteristic parameters of the artificial vision system in the air–water environment. The artificial vision system showed consistent imaging capabilities in this environment (Fig. 4g). The square images were obtained in air without the off-axis aberration, and the circular patterns were clearly imaged in water without optical aberrations and maintaining the wide FoV. Due to the unique design of

g-ML, external medium changes do not degrade the imaging quality or FoV. However, conventional h-ML loses the focusing feature and is unable to focus the incoming light, when the environment changes between air and water (Supplementary Fig. 8). According to these demonstrations, all-weather imaging can be achieved with the artificial vision system. A comparison of the artificial vision system with conventional panoramic imaging systems (Supplementary Note 7 and Supplementary Fig. 9) further highlights its excellence.

## Conclusions

We have reported amphibious and panoramic artificial vision inspired by the structural and functional features of the fiddler crab eye. Based on an analysis of the fiddler crab lens, we developed a flat microlens with a graded RI structure for amphibious focusing. To emulate the panoramic vision of the fiddler crab, we integrated graded microlens arrays with flexible Si PD arrays on a 3D spherical structure. The amphibious and panoramic imaging capabilities of artificial vision were verified via in-air and in-water demonstrations. Our system could be of use in the development of unconventional applications such as panoramic motion detection and obstacle avoidance in continuously changing environments. Valuable extensions of the approach include the consideration of biologically inspired light adaptation<sup>35</sup> schemes and further engineering to achieve higher resolution and superior image processing techniques.

## Methods

**Preparation of eye specimens and their characterization.** An adult male *Uca arcuata* was anaesthetised by cooling it for 5 min in a deep freezer, and the eye stalks were cut as close as possible to the eyes by using a surgical knife. The eyes were fixed in Karnovsky's fixative solution for 24 h at room temperature. Post-fixation occurred in 1% osmium tetroxide (OsO<sub>4</sub>) solution (0.1 M cacodylate buffer) for 2 h, followed by three 15 min washings in distilled water. The eyes were dehydrated through sequential washing in 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% and 100% (twice) ethanol for 15 min each. Then, for TEM imaging, the specimens were gradually infiltrated with a resin (Spurr's resin) through infiltration by (1) pure propylene oxide for 1 h, (2) 25%/75% resin/propylene oxide for 2 h, (3) 50%/50% resin/propylene oxide (overnight), (4) 75%/25% resin/propylene oxide for 2 h and (5) pure resin for at least 6 h. Polymerization was performed at 60 °C for 24 h. The specimens were imaged and characterized using an optical camera, optical microscope and electron microscope. A field-emission scanning electron microscope (Sigma, Carl Zeiss), which is installed at the National Instrumentation Center for Environmental Management at Seoul National University, was used to image the structure of the crab's eye. A cryo-TEM instrument (Tecnai F20 G<sup>2</sup>, FEI), which is installed at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, was employed to image the ultrathin section of the fixed eye. This experiment was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (SNU-210526-4) of Seoul National University.

**Visual map reconstruction of the fiddler crab eye.** A sample of a fiddler crab eye with a stalk was prepared for SEM imaging. The sample was mounted on a rotating SEM specimen holder (Supplementary Fig. 10a). The SEM images of the fiddler crab eye were taken with angular intervals of 45°. Using a custom-made code, the features of the facet lens were extracted from each image and deployed in two-dimensional (2D) space. The image tiles were horizontally aligned to create a panoramic image. In addition, the SEM images of the fiddler crab eye were vertically stitched together. Finally, a visual map of the fiddler crab eye was reconstructed in 2D space by merging the horizontally and vertically stitched images into a single image (Supplementary Fig. 10b).

**Optical simulation for design and analysis of MLs.** Monte Carlo-based 3D ray-tracing software (OpticStudio 16.0, Radiant ZEMAX) was exploited to design the g-ML and h-ML and analyse their optical characteristics. A rectangular detector (80 × 480 μm<sup>2</sup>) with 100 × 600 pixels was used to analyse the focusing performance of h-ML and g-ML. Optical simulations with various conditions were conducted to compare the images formed by h-ML and g-ML in air and water. For the simulation, 4 × 10<sup>9</sup> rays of monochromatic light (that is, λ = 550 nm) were launched from the letter 'E' in non-sequential ray tracing (Supplementary Fig. 11). Further, h-ML and each layer of g-ML (base lens and the first, second and third lens layers) were computationally investigated in terms of the focal length by varying the RoCs of the four lens surfaces in air and water (Supplementary Fig. 12). In addition, the Seidel spherical aberration was analysed for various RoCs of the four lens surfaces (Supplementary Fig. 13). Based on these simulation results, the g-ML design to reduce spherical aberration was determined by increasing the RoC with a low sag height.

**Fabrication of g-ML array for lens characterization.** Three layers of optical adhesives (Norland optical adhesive (NOA) 133, 13685 and 138 for diameters of 17 and 80 μm and 1348, 1379 and 139 for diameter of 400 μm; Norland Products) and a base microlens (h-ML) array made of a clear elastomer (SYLGARD 184, Dow Corning; mixing ratio of 1:10 between the curing agent and prepolymer) were used to fabricate the g-ML array (Supplementary Table 2 provides the design specifications), which was fabricated by using multiple spin-coating processes. The theoretical analysis results showed that the fabricated g-MLs were robust against RoC variations that can occur in multiple spin-coating processes (Supplementary Fig. 13). Supplementary Fig. 14 and Supplementary Table 4 show the corresponding schematic and processing conditions, respectively. Master quartz moulds were fabricated via HF etching of quartz using a silicon mask with hole patterns. After removing the silicon mask with KOH, HF etching was repeated to obtain a large curvature<sup>36</sup>. The elastomer was poured onto and cured on the mould at 70 °C for 6 h to fabricate the base lens (Supplementary Fig. 15). To enhance the adhesion between optical adhesives (that is, NOAs) and the elastomer base lens, the elastomer surface was treated by O<sub>2</sub> plasma generated in the reactive ion etcher (40 s.c.c.m., 100 W, 100 mtorr). Different materials and rotation speeds were used to fabricate the microlens arrays with various diameters. For example, NOA was spin coated onto the elastomer base lens and cured by ultraviolet (UV) irradiation under a N<sub>2</sub> environment (365 nm; dose, 6 J cm<sup>-2</sup>; N<sub>2</sub> flow, 2 l min<sup>-1</sup>). These spin-coating and curing processes were repeated three times to fabricate the g-ML array.

**Fabrication of g-ML array for the imaging device.** Three layers of optical adhesives (NOA 1348, 1369 and 139; Norland Products) and a base elastomer layer (Clear Flex 50; Smooth-On) were used to fabricate the g-ML array for the integrated imaging device. The g-ML array was produced via multiple soft moulding processes (Extended Data Fig. 4). Soft moulds were made of silicone (Ecoflex, Smooth-On). The soft moulds for the middle lenses (first and second lenses) were designed to have composite shapes of cavities (cylinders with hemispherical tops), and the soft mould for the flat top layer (third lens) was designed to have a hollow cylinder shape (Supplementary Table 5). The base lens and soft moulds were aligned and brought into contact with each other to confine the NOA in the space between the base lens and soft mould. The confined NOA was cured by UV irradiation (365 nm; dose, 6 J cm<sup>-2</sup>). Residual NOA was removed using tweezers. The UV irradiation is sufficient to bond the NOAs and PU because they are based on the same material, namely, urethane. The alignment and UV irradiation process were repeated to complete the fabrication of the g-ML array. An SP layer was deposited onto the entire surface by spray coating. Then, the SP on the lens area was peeled off by bringing it into contact with a glass stamp coated with an organic solvent.

**Fabrication of comb-shaped image sensor array.** First, a silicon-on-insulator (top silicon, 1.25 μm, SOITEC) wafer was doped using spin on dopants to define the n-type and p-type regions. After the doping process, the silicon nanomembrane was transferred onto a PI layer (thickness, ~2 μm) coated on a SiO<sub>2</sub> wafer. The active regions for the photodiodes were isolated using photolithography and dry etching. A PI layer (thickness, ~1 μm) was spin coated for the intermediate dielectric layer. Vertical interconnect access patterns were formed, and metallization (first metal interconnect, Cr/Au layers, 10/100 nm) was performed. Additional depositions of the PI and metal layer and patterning of the metal layer (second metal interconnect) were conducted by using the same process. Supplementary Fig. 16 shows the layouts for the metal interconnections. As a top encapsulation layer, a PI layer (thickness, ~1 μm) was deposited by spin coating and then the entire device was etched into a comb-shaped pattern. The fabricated comb-shaped image sensor array was detached from the SiO<sub>2</sub> wafer with a water-soluble tape (3M) and transfer printed onto an elastomer layer (Ecoflex). The top PI layer of the comb-shaped photodiode array and bottom surface of the base polymer layer (Clear Flex 50) were treated by O<sub>2</sub> plasma. Then, the comb-shaped photodiode array and base polymer layer were bonded.

**Mechanical analysis of g-ML for the integrated device.** Commercial software (Abaqus, standard 6.13) was employed to understand how much strain was applied to the panoramic image sensor, especially to the microlens arrays, under bending. The cross section of the multilayer device was modelled using a 2D deformable shell with a four-node plane stress element (CPS4). Each layer was partitioned accordingly, and it was assumed that there was no delamination at the interface. For the microlens array ( $h_{\text{Lens}} = 270 \mu\text{m}$ ) and PU spacer ( $h_{\text{PU}} = 1.2 \text{ mm}$ ), incompressible neo-Hookean hyperelastic material was assigned with material properties of  $E_{\text{NOA1348}} = 54.9 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $E_{\text{NOA1369}} = 12.8 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $E_{\text{NOA139}} = 44.9 \text{ MPa}$  and  $E_{\text{PU}} = 1.0 \text{ MPa}$ . The photodiode layer composed of multiple thin layers of metals and PI was modelled as a simplified single layer because (1) it has a negligible effect to the strain distribution on the microlens arrays under bending and (2) it was not the area of interest. Incompressible neo-Hookean elastic material was assigned to the photodiode layer with an effective modulus of

$$E_{\text{Eff}} = E_{\text{PI}} \left( \frac{h_{\text{PI}}}{h_{\text{PI}} + h_{\text{Au}} + h_{\text{Si}}} \right) + E_{\text{Au}} \left( \frac{h_{\text{Au}}}{h_{\text{PI}} + h_{\text{Au}} + h_{\text{Si}}} \right) + E_{\text{Si}} \left( \frac{h_{\text{Si}}}{h_{\text{PI}} + h_{\text{Au}} + h_{\text{Si}}} \right),$$

where  $E_{pi} = 2.5$  GPa,  $E_{Au} = 79.0$  GPa,  $E_{Si} = 179.0$  GPa,  $h_{pi} = 4.50$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $h_{Au} = 0.20$   $\mu\text{m}$  and  $h_{Si} = 1.25$   $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Amphibious and panoramic imaging demonstration.** A customized measurement setup was used to demonstrate the amphibious and panoramic imaging capabilities of artificial vision. For panoramic imaging, omnidirectional objects were implemented by four flat diffusive light sources (MB-TBL1X1-W-24CV, Vision Light Tech). In addition, multilaser spot imaging experiments were conducted (Supplementary Fig. 17). Amphibious imaging was performed by immersing the device halfway in water in a water container. The scanning method<sup>4</sup> was exploited to improve the imaging resolution. The artificial vision system was rotated from  $-10.00^\circ$  to  $10.00^\circ$  with increments of  $1.00^\circ$  about the  $z$  axis and from  $-5.30^\circ$  to  $5.30^\circ$  with increments of  $0.53^\circ$  about the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, respectively. Three motorized stages constituted the scanning setup (Supplementary Fig. 18). A data acquisition board supported real-time data acquisition and transferred the data to a computer (Supplementary Fig. 19). Supplementary Notes 1–7 provide more details.

### Data availability

The data that support the plots within this paper and other findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

### Code availability

The source codes for MATLAB are available from the corresponding authors upon request.

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### Author contributions

M.L., G.J.L., H.J.J., D.-H.K. and Y.M.S. designed the experiments, analysed the data and wrote the paper. M.L. and H.C. prepared the biological specimens. J.H.L. performed the electron microscopy experiments. M.L., H.C., E.J. and M.K. fabricated the photodiode array and performed the characterization of individual devices. M.L. and H.C. performed the assembly of devices. G.J.L., H.J.J., M.S.K., H.M.K. and J.-E.Y. performed the theoretical and experimental analysis of the optics. G.J.L., H.J.J., K.M.K. and F.D. conducted the imaging simulation and demonstration. H.J. and N.L. performed the theoretical analysis of the mechanics. All the authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

### Additional information

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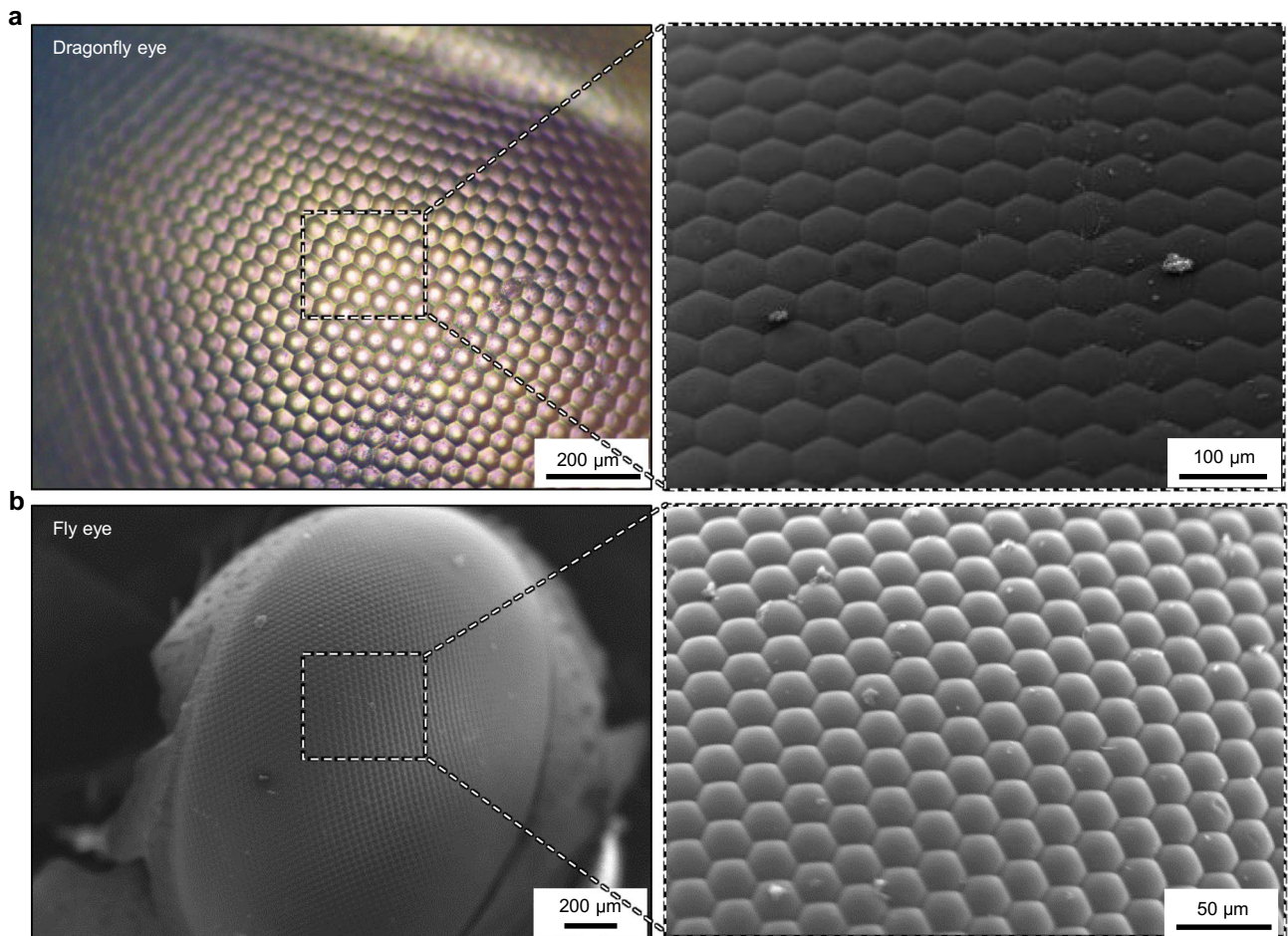
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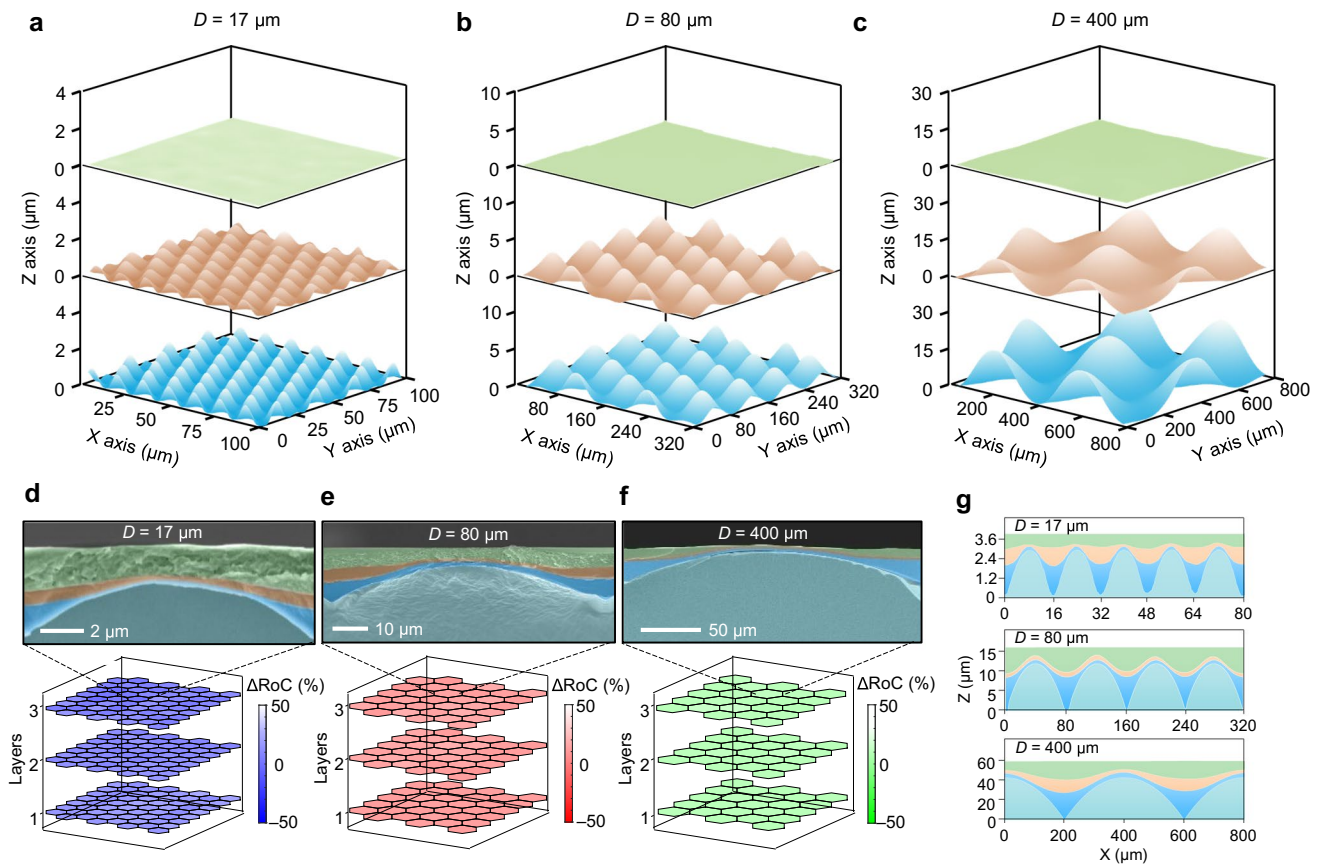
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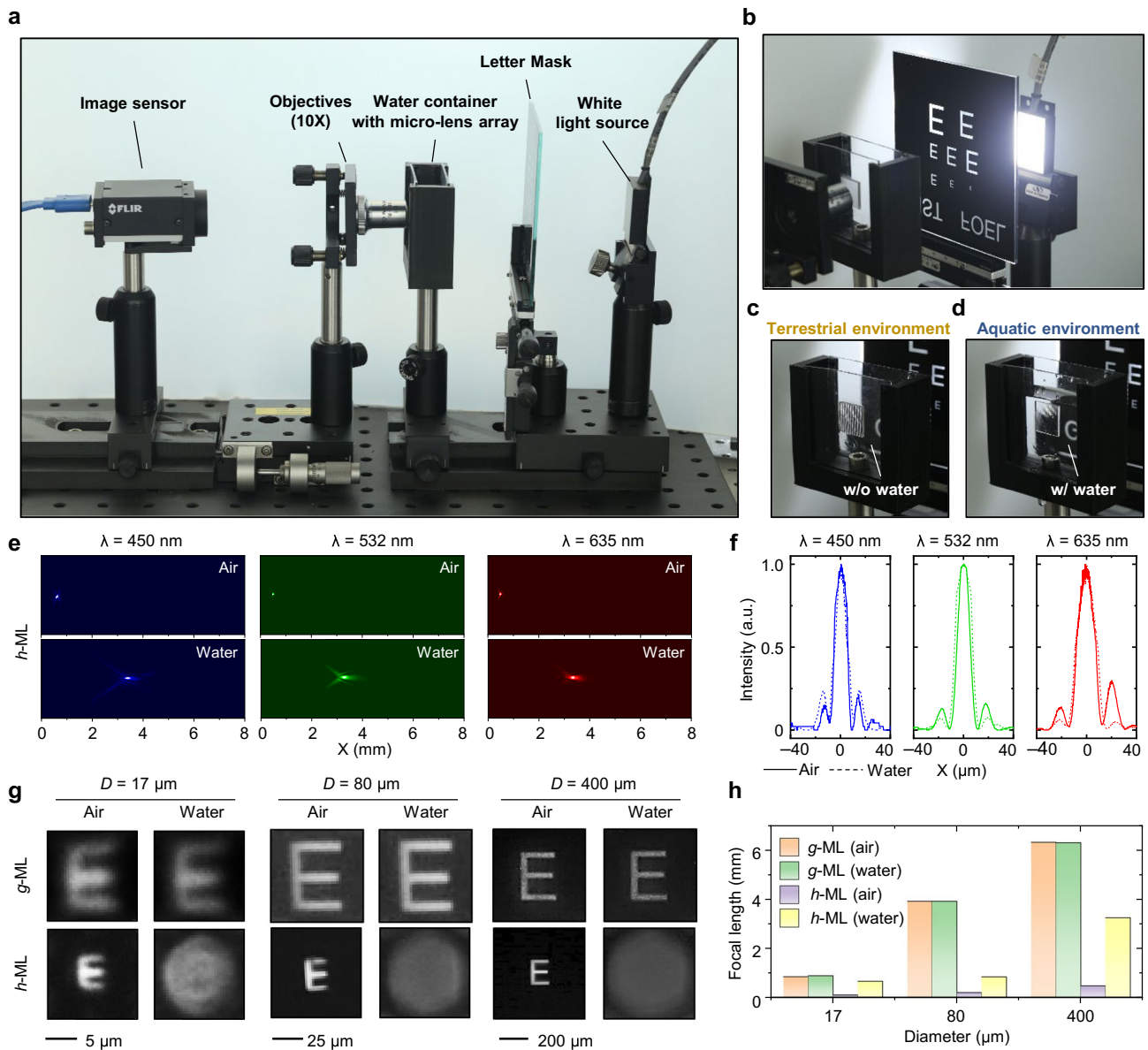




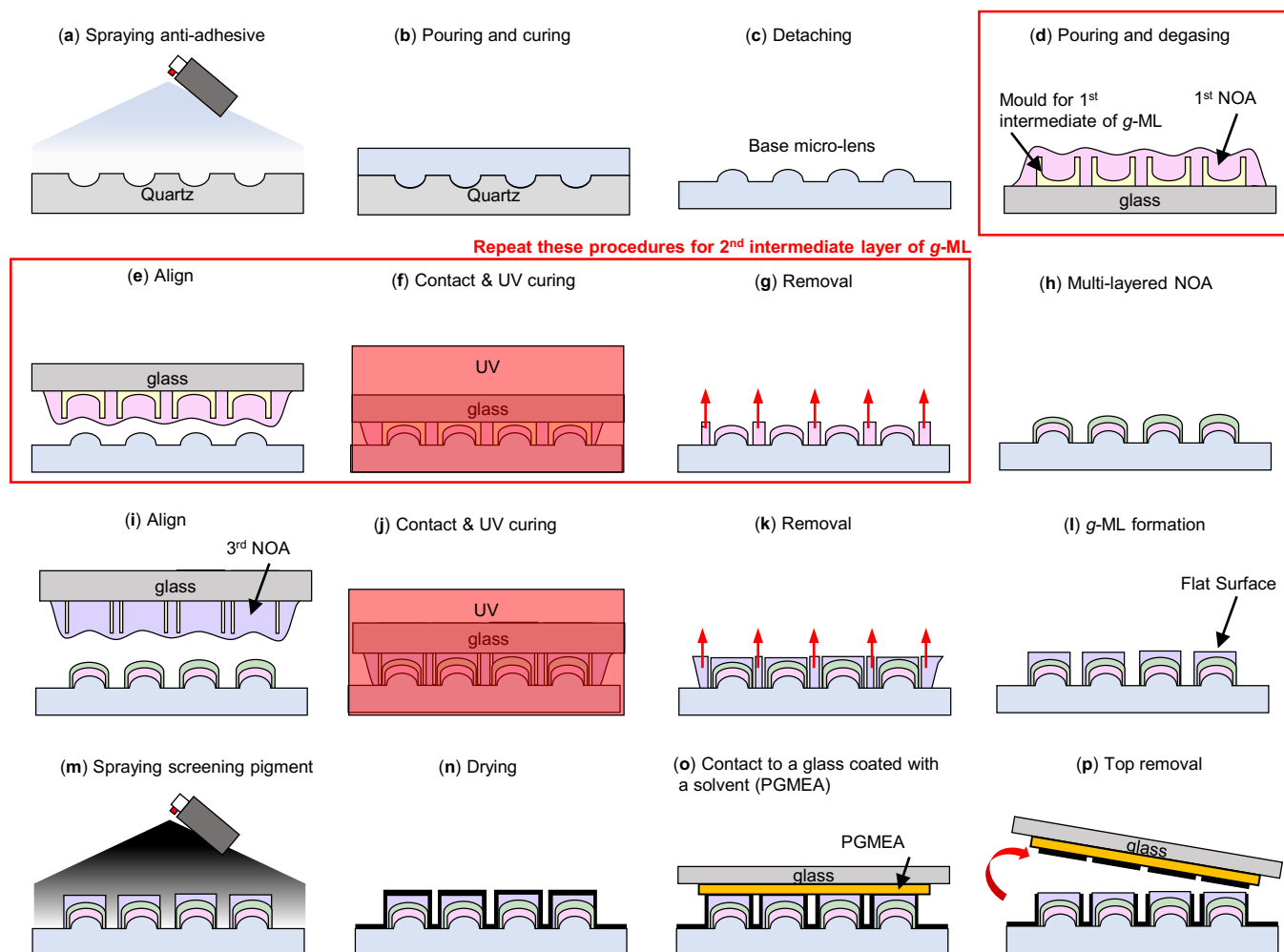
**Extended Data Fig. 1 | Hemispherical (convex type) cornea facet lenses in the eyes of terrestrial arthropods.** (a) Optical microscope images of a dragonfly eye (*Epophthalmia elegans*, left) and its SEM image (right). Its cornea facet lens has a convex-type hemispherical surface. (b) SEM images of a fly eye (*Calliphora vomitorii*, left) and its magnified view (right), which show the convex-type hemispherical surface of the cornea facet lens.



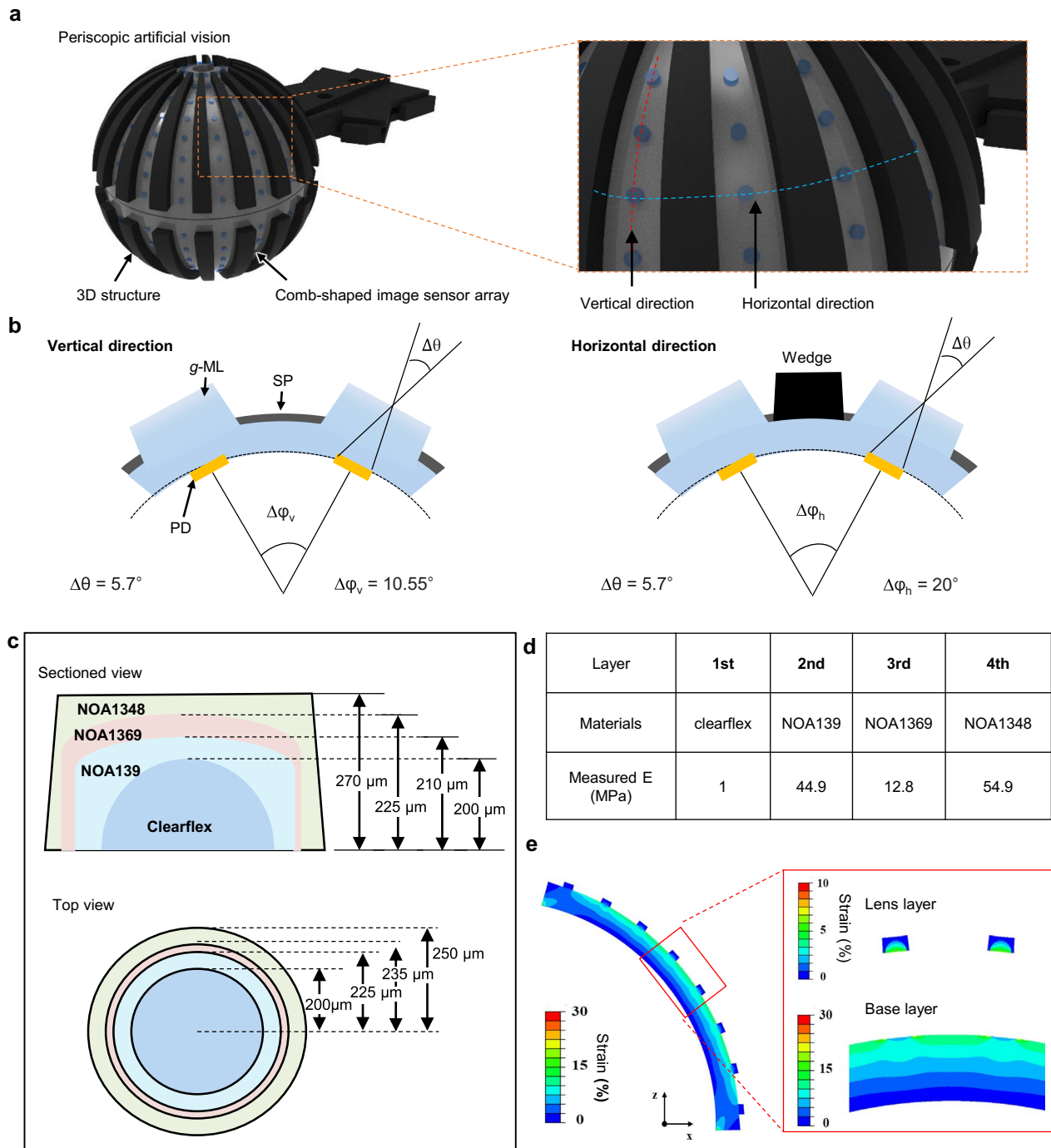
**Extended Data Fig. 2 | Characterization of the fabricated *g*-ML arrays with various sizes.** (a–c), Each layer of each *g*-ML array is scanned by confocal microscopy to reconstruct the 3D surface profile of each layer. The diameters ( $D$ ) of the *g*-MLs are 17  $\mu\text{m}$  (a), 80  $\mu\text{m}$  (b), and 400  $\mu\text{m}$  (c). (d–f) Colored cross-sectional SEM images of the *g*-MLs (top) and deviations of the RoCs from the average RoCs in the *g*-ML layers (bottom) for three different micro-lens diameters, that is, 17  $\mu\text{m}$  (d), 80  $\mu\text{m}$  (e), and 400  $\mu\text{m}$  (f). (g) 2D cross-sectional profiles of *g*-MLs with three different diameters (17  $\mu\text{m}$ , 80  $\mu\text{m}$ , and 400  $\mu\text{m}$  in the top, middle, and bottom frames, respectively).



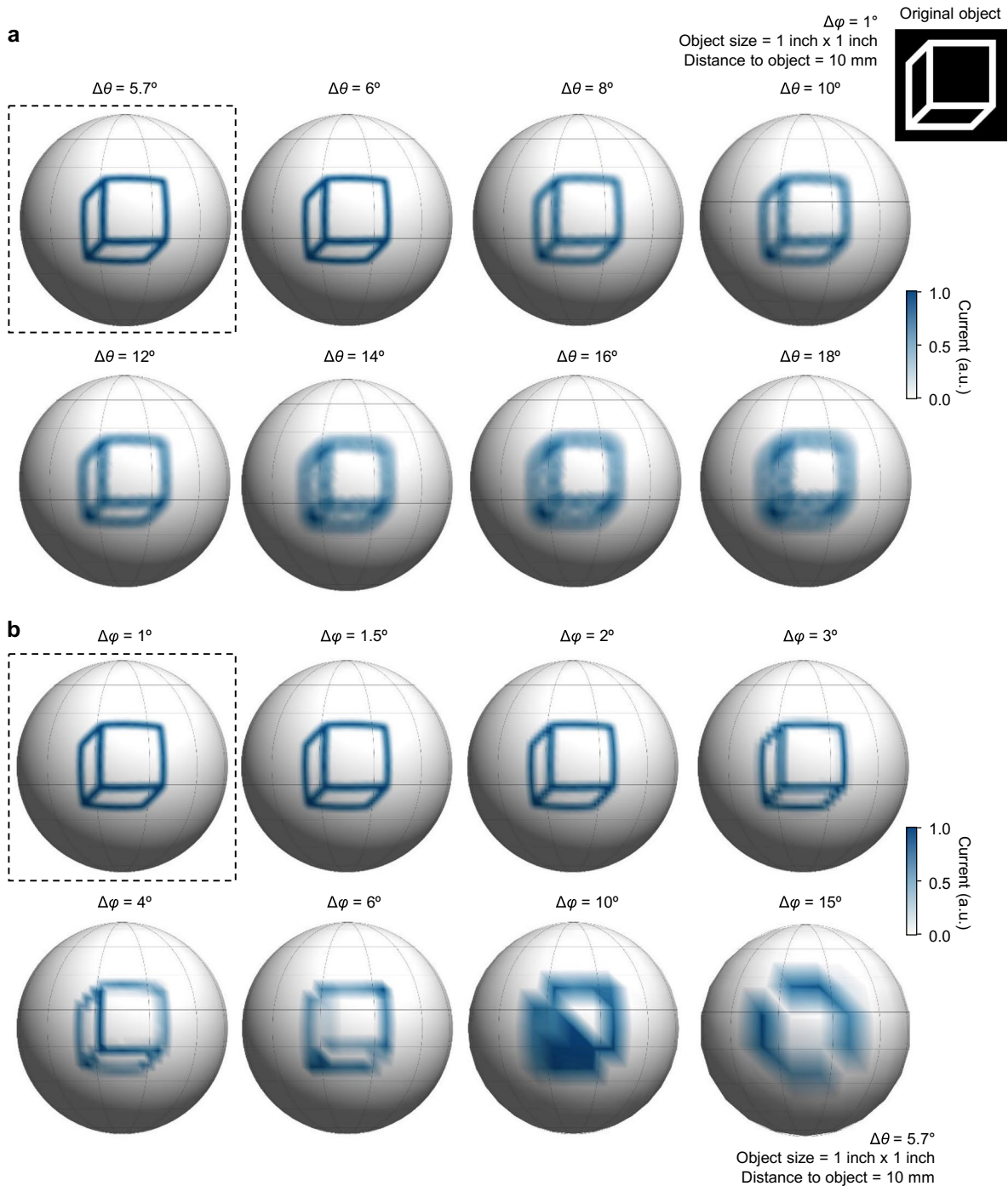
**Extended Data Fig. 3 | Custom-made experimental setup for lens characterization in air and water, and measurement results.** (a) Optical camera image of the custom-made experimental setup. The setup consists of a white light source or laser sources with wavelengths of 450, 532, and 635 nm; an objective lens (10 $\times$ ); and a CMOS image sensor. (b–d) Optical camera images showing the components, including the water container, for amphibious imaging. (e) Measured light intensity distribution of the *h*-ML (micro-lens size of 400  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for three wavelengths (left: 450 nm, centre: 532 nm, and right: 635 nm). (f) Cross-sectional light intensity profile of the *g*-ML with a micro-lens size of 400  $\mu\text{m}$  at the focal length in air (solid line) and water (dotted line). These results show that the *g*-ML obtains identical profiles in both media at the same focal length. (g) Imaging results of a letter ‘E’ obtained by the *g*-ML (top) and *h*-ML (bottom) for various micro-lens sizes (that is 17, 80, and 400  $\mu\text{m}$ ) under white light. (h) Measured focal lengths of *g*-MLs and *h*-MLs with three sizes in air and water. For all sizes, the *g*-MLs show consistent focal lengths in air and water, whereas the *h*-MLs show large changes of their focal lengths between air and water.



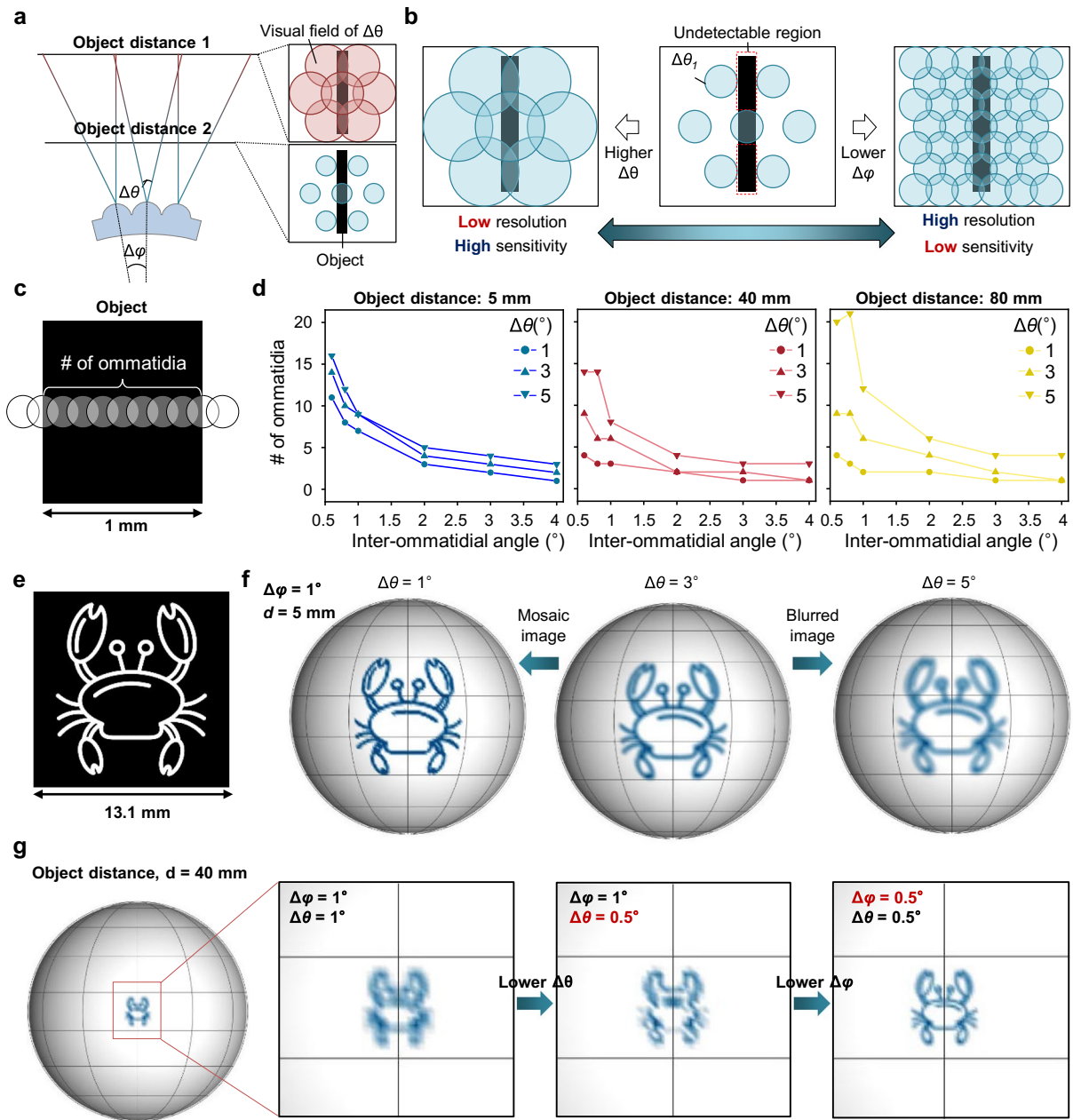
**Extended Data Fig. 4 | Schematic illustrations of multiple soft moulding processes for the fabrication of the *g*-ML array.** (a–c) Fabrication steps for a spacer layer and a base micro-lens array. (a) An anti-adhesive (Teflon AF<sup>TM</sup>) is coated on a quartz mould. (b) The prepolymer (clear flex<sup>TM</sup> 50) for the spacer and base micro-lenses is poured onto the quartz mould and thermally cured for 20 h. (c) The spacer and base micro-lens layer is detached from the quartz mould. (d–g) Fabrication steps for intermediate lens layers of the *g*-ML. For intermediate *g*-ML layers, silicone (Ecoflex<sup>TM</sup>) moulds of plano-concave shapes with different curvatures are prepared. These steps are repeated for two intermediate NOA layers. (d) NOA is poured onto the silicone mould, and air bubbles are removed. (e) The silicone mould and base micro-lenses are aligned using a microscope. (f) The silicone mould and base micro-lenses are brought into contact. NOA is cured by UV illumination. (g) The silicone mould is removed, and unnecessary NOA is removed using tweezers. (h) The multi-layered NOA structure is formed on the base micro-lens. (i–l) Fabrication steps for a flat *g*-ML surface. (i) The silicone mould for the flat surface lens is prepared. NOA for the flat surface lens is poured onto the silicone mould. The multi-layered lens and silicone mould are aligned using a microscope. (j) The silicone mould and the multi-layered lens are brought into contact. NOA is cured using UV radiation. (k) Unnecessary NOA is removed using tweezers. (l) A *g*-ML with a flat surface is fabricated. (m, n) The screening pigment (SP) is spray-printed onto the *g*-ML and dried. (o, p) For light transmission, the SP on the *g*-ML surface is removed by bringing it into contact with solvent-coated (propylene glycol methyl ether acetate) glass.



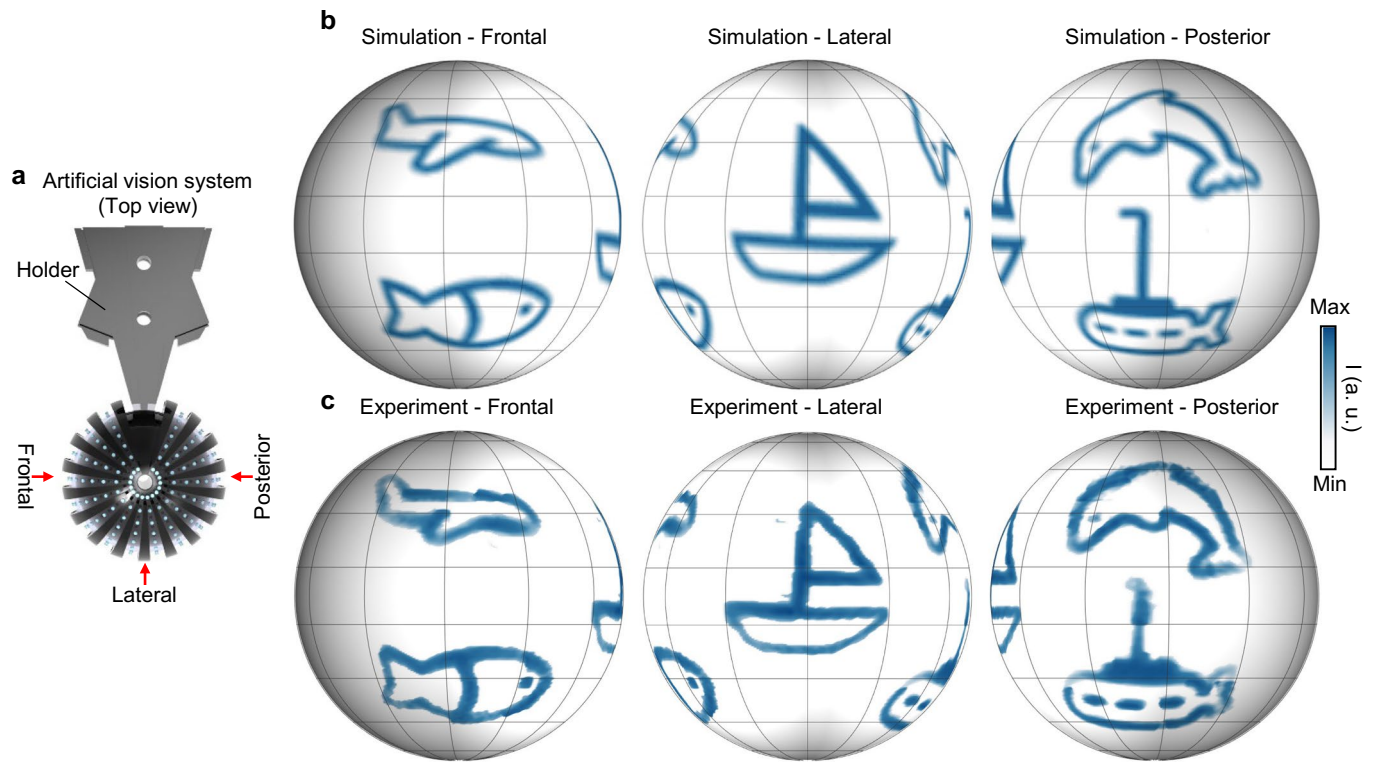
**Extended Data Fig. 5 | Design of the panoramic artificial vision using the spherical 3D structure and finite element analysis (FEA) of the induced strain in the image sensor array.** (a) Schematic illustration of the panoramic artificial vision. The comb-shaped image sensor array and the  $g$ -ML array are integrated on the spherical 3D structure. (b) Schematic illustration defining the acceptance angle ( $\Delta\theta$ ) and inter-ommatidial angles in the vertical and horizontal directions ( $\Delta\phi_v$  and  $\Delta\phi_h$ ). Considering the acceptance angle, the inter-ommatidial angles are determined to avoid overlapping between the visual fields of neighbouring pixels. (c) Geometry of the  $g$ -ML used for FEA. (d) Elastic modulus (e) of each layer in the  $g$ -ML. (e) Strain distributions induced in the image sensor and  $g$ -ML arrays. Because the outermost lens has the highest elastic modulus, the entire  $g$ -ML experiences only a nominal strain under the bending deformation.



**Extended Data Fig. 6 | Imaging simulations for the optical parameters of the artificial vision. (a)** Imaging simulation results of a cubic pattern with eight different acceptance angles ( $\Delta\theta$ ) from  $5.7^\circ$  to  $18^\circ$ . The inset shows an original image of the cubic pattern. **(b)** Imaging simulation results of a cubic pattern with eight different inter-ommatidial angles ( $\Delta\phi$ ) from  $1^\circ$  to  $15^\circ$ . The dashed boxes indicate the used conditions in the measurement.



**Extended Data Fig. 7 | Optical simulations for inter-ommatidial and acceptance angles.** (a) Schematic for the distance-relative visual field of the ommatidia with an acceptance angle of  $\Delta\theta$  and an inter-ommatidial angle of  $\Delta\phi$ . (b) Illustration for the visual field variation by changing the acceptance and inter-ommatidial angles. An undetectable region, the area which cannot be captured by ommatidia, can be compensated by changing the angles. (c) Schematic illustration for describing the number of ommatidia capturing the object. (d) Calculated number of related ommatidia in (c) as a function of the acceptance angle and inter-ommatidial angle at an object distance of 5 mm, 40 mm, and 80 mm. (e) Original crab image for the image simulation. (f) Results of the imaging simulation with an object distance of 5 mm and an inter-ommatidial angle of  $1^\circ$ . (g) Results of the imaging simulation at an object distance of 40 mm with various acceptance angles and inter-ommatidial angles for the enhanced imaging resolution.



**Extended Data Fig. 8 | Simulation and experimental results of the panoramic imaging by the artificial vision. (a)** Schematic illustration of the artificial vision from the top view. **(b)** Simulation results of the panoramic imaging. **(c)** Experimental results of the panoramic imaging by the artificial vision.