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Title: The chemistry of death - adipocere degradation in modern graveyards

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1 Highlights

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3 • Exhumation reveals black material on top of adipocere in reducing soil

4 • Black material results from the direct degradation of adipocere

5 • Adipocere can be degraded under poikiloaerobic conditions over short periods

6 • Adipocere degradation occurs by way of aerobic as well as chemical pathways

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