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COVER Melanism in insects inhabiting industrial environments is one of the most
striking evolutionary changes occurring today. Extensive investigations of
Biston (Amphidasys) betularia (peppered moth) reveal that its black
form, carbonaria, may constitute up to 98 percent of industrial populations.
The black form has a 30-percent chance of survival over f. typica on
blackened tree trunks. A mechanism may exist in the gene complex, and
may insure dominance of the black form at each mutation. See page 1290.
[H. B. D. Kettlewell, University of Oxford]
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