
Editorial: Freedom of Inquiry: An Endangered Species: C. E. Hess


News and Comment: Labs Favored Over Research; Briefing: The Secret Recipe of GE's Reactor Safety Study; Baby Doe Compromise Imminent; Dioxin Trial Pits Workers Against Monsanto; EPA Failed to Catch Missing Data on Larvadex; Will Home Computers Transform Schools?; Rifkin Broadens Challenge in Biotech; Plus ça Change at Harvard Public Health?

Research News: NASA Wrestles with New Shuttle Troubles; An Encouraging Long-Term Quake "Forecast"; First mRNA Splicing Intermediate; Studying Learning in the Womb; Laser Briefings: 16-Femtosecond Pulse from Laser is Shortest Yet; Precision Positronium Spectroscopy Tests QED; High-Power Infrared Free Electron Lasers

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Science is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, D.C., and at an additional entry. Now combined with The Scientific Monthly. Copyright © 1990 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Domestic individual membership subscription (51 issues): $56, Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): $93. Foreign postage extra: Canada $24, other (surface mail) $27, air-surface via Amsterdam $65. First class, airmail, school-year, and student rates on request. Single copies $2.50 ($3 by mail); back issues $5.50 ($5.50 by mail); classroom rates on request. Change of address: allow 6 weeks, giving old and new addresses and seven-digit account number. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use under circumstances not falling within the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act is granted by AAAS to librarians and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of $1 per copy plus $0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 21 Congress Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970. The identification code for Science is 0036-8075/84 $1.00. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Science is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.
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Cluster of Boergesenia forbesii cells. The giant, balloon-like cells of this marine green alga produce hundreds of viable protoplasts within 90 minutes when they are wounded (protoplasts visible in two cells). This phenomenon is accompanied by the appearance of numerous coated pits and vesicles near the plasma membrane (about 9). See page 331. [John W. La Claire II, Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin 78712, with cooperation of the Cell Research Institute and Dennis T. Brown]