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COVER Emerging alfalfa root nodule, resulting from *Rhizobium meliloti* infection. The bacteria stimulate plant cortical mitoses, cause deformation of epidermal root hairs, and invade the root through an infection thread (blue-staining cell, upper right). The *R. meliloti* nodABC genes, required for all these events, are transcriptionally controlled by a plant-synthesized flavonoid, luteolin. See page 977. [Photograph by Mark Dudley and Sharon Long, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305]

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