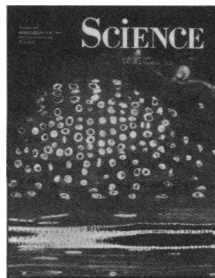


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- SCIENCE is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, and with a plus issue in May by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and at an additional entry. Now combined with *The Scientific Monthly* © Copyright © 1986 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): \$65. Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$98. 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 \$4 (\$4.50 by mail); Biotechnology issue, \$5.50 (\$6 by mail); classroom rates on request; Guide to Biotechnology Products and Instruments \$16 (\$17 by mail). **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 libraries 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 0036-8075/83 \$1 + .10. **Postmaster:** Send Form 3579 to *Science*, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. *Science* is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in several specialized indexes.
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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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