

715 This Week in *Science*

Editorial

717 Preserving Biodiversity

Letters

719 Patents and Publication: J. P. KONIAREK ■ The “D0 Syndrome”: P. D. GRANNIS  
■ Cancer and Poverty: J. F. MORTON ■ Prescription Drug Prices:  
P. E. OETTINGER; Response: P. R. VAGELOS ■ Surgeon-Warriors?: J. CASSELL

ScienceScope

727 Classifying NSF social scientists; declassifying army biodefense policy; etc.

News & Comment

728 Hints Emerge from the Gallo Probe  
729 Popovic Blasts Accusers, Demands Report Withdrawn  
732 The Gallo Factor: Questions Remain  
733 British Mathematicians Count Their Numbers  
734 Penicillin's Forgotten Man: Norman Heatley

Research News

736 Extinction: Are Ecologists Crying Wolf?  
739 The Private Lives of Globular Clusters  
740 To Everything (Tern, Tern, Tern) There Is a Season ■ Outfoxing the Foxes  
742 New Role Found for a Common Protein “Motif”  
743 *Briefings*: Research Entourage Leaves Rockefeller ■ Beyond the Great Wall? ■  
Humboldt Penguin—He or She? ■ Fewer Prospectors, Brighter Prospects ■  
Genome Assignment for Industry

Perspectives

744 Conservation: Tactics for a Constant Crisis: M. E. SOULÉ  
750 An Evolutionary Basis for Conservation Strategies: T. L. ERWIN  
752 Balancing Species Preservation and Economic Considerations: H. J. MOROWITZ  
754 Extinctions: A Paleontological Perspective: D. JABLONSKI

Article

758 Biodiversity Studies: Science and Policy: P. R. EHRLICH AND E. O. WILSON

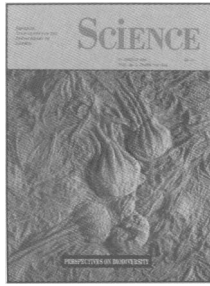
Research Article

762 Convergence of Ets- and Notch-Related Structural Motifs in a Heteromeric DNA  
Binding Complex: C. C. THOMPSON, T. A. BROWN, S. L. MCKNIGHT

Reports

769 Ballistic 2-D Imaging Through Scattering Walls Using an Ultrafast Optical Kerr  
Gate: L. WANG, P. P. HO, C. LIU, G. ZHANG, R. R. ALFANO  
772 Modified Phases of Diamond Formed Under Shock Compression and Rapid  
Quenching: H. HIRAI AND K.-I. KONDO

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**COVER** The fossil record is rich in information on past changes in biodiversity and patterns of extinction. Echinoderms such as those on the cover (maximum test diameter 8 centimeters; arms may exceed 1 meter), *Uintacrinus socialis* Grinnell from Kansas (Smoky Hill Member, Niobrara Formation), are thought to have adopted a planktonic existence, and they were abundant and globally distributed in Late Cretaceous seas. The Uintacrinida order suddenly became extinct well before the end of the Cretaceous. See p. 754. [Photo by John Weinstein, courtesy of the Field Museum of Natural History]

- 774 Observations of Extreme Upwelling Filaments in the Southeast Atlantic Ocean: J. R. E. LUTJEHARMS, F. A. SHILLINGTON, C. M. DUNCOMBE RAE
- 776 Contact Adhesion of Thin Gold Films on Elastomeric Supports: Cold Welding Under Ambient Conditions: G. S. FERGUSON, M. K. CHAUDHURY, G. B. SIGAL, G. M. WHITESIDES
- 778 Thymocyte Expression of RAG-1 and RAG-2: Termination by T Cell Receptor Cross-Linking: L. A. TURKA, D. G. SCHATZ, M. A. OETTINGER, J. J. M. CHUN, C. GORKA, K. LEE, W. T. MCCORMACK, C. B. THOMPSON
- 781 Purification of an Allene Oxide Synthase and Identification of the Enzyme as a Cytochrome P-450: W.-C. SONG AND A. R. BRASH
- 784 Specificity for Aminoacylation of an RNA Helix: An Unpaired, Exocyclic Amino Group in the Minor Groove: K. MUSIER-FORSYTH, N. USMAN, S. SCARINGE, J. DOUDNA, R. GREEN, P. SCHIMMEL
- 786 Variable Effects of Phosphorylation of Pit-1 Dictated by the DNA Response Elements: M. S. KAPILOFF, Y. FARKASH, M. WEGNER, M. G. ROSENFELD
- 789 Identification of Ets- and Notch-Related Subunits in GA Binding Protein: K. LAMARCO, C. C. THOMPSON, B. P. BYERS, E. M. WALTON, S. L. MCKNIGHT
- 792 Design and Synthesis of a Mimetic from an Antibody Complementarity-Determining Region: H. U. SARAGOV, D. FITZPATRICK, A. RAKTABUTR, H. NAKANISHI, M. KAHN, M. I. GREENE
- 795 Photoperiodism and Effects of Indoleamines in a Unicellular Alga, *Gonyaulax polyedra*: I. BALZER AND R. HARDELAND
- 797 Similar Neuronal Alterations Induced by Axonal Injury and Learning in *Aplysia*: E. T. WALTERS, H. ALIZADEH, G. A. CASTRO

## Technical Comment

- 800 Single-Channel Mechanosensitive Currents: M. C. GUSTIN; F. SACHS, W. SIGURDSON, A. RUKNUDIN, C. BOWMAN; C. E. MORRIS, AND R. HORN ■ Lysyl Oxidase and *rrg* Messenger RNA: K. KENYON, S. CONTENTE, P. C. TRACKMAN, J. TANG, H. M. KAGAN, R. M. FRIEDMAN

## Book Reviews

- 803 The Biology of the Naked Mole-Rat, reviewed by G. R. MICHENER ■ Paleoclimatology, J. OVERPECK ■ Graptolites, D. L. CLARK ■ Cellular and Molecular Immunology, P. M. ALLEN ■ Books Received

## Products & Materials

- 807 Current Contents on Diskette ■ Taq DNA Polymerase ■ Reverse Transcription in a Single Tube ■ Talking Gel Reader ■ Periodic Table Database ■ Portable Dew Point Generator ■ Vacuum Scopes ■ Automatic Direct Blotting System ■ Literature

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