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Model of the protein lysin superimposed on the shells of a red abalone. To fertilize the egg, the abalone spermatozoon must disrupt the protective vitelline envelope. Lysin binds to the filamentous glycoproteins that form the envelope and creates a hole by means of a nonenzymatic process. The lysin-glycoprotein association also contributes to the species recognition between sperm and egg. See page 1864. [Cover design: Peggy Myer. Digital photography: Bob Turner. Molecular model: Mike Pique]
Editor's Summary

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