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A male gray seal issuing a threat. Colonially breeding gray seals are widely assumed to be typical polygynous mammals, with males competing for positions among groups of physically smaller, more numerous females. However, molecular genetic analysis reveals large numbers of full siblings. Such a pattern implies that many seals mate preferentially with previous partners. See page 1897. [Photo: P. P. Pomeroy/Sea Mammal Research Unit]

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TECHNICAL COMMENTS


A scattered-wave image of subduction beneath the transverse ranges. The transverse ranges are a set of parallel mountain ranges that extend for thousands of kilometers and are characterized by high seismic activity and large earthquakes. These ranges form a significant part of the tectonic plate boundary in the Pacific Ocean and are thought to be associated with the subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate. The image was obtained using a combination of satellite radar and ground-based data, and provides valuable insights into the dynamics of plate tectonics and the mechanism of seismic activity in this region.
Editor's Summary

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