**1795**

Microbes star in biofilms

**1850**

How old is Dominican amber?

---

**NEWS & COMMENT**

- Whose Genome Is It, Anyway? 1788
- France: Research Is Spared the Budget Ax 1790
- Germany: No Respite for International Labs 1790
- Computer Networks: Explosive Growth Helps Japan Take Its Place on Global Team 1791
- New Networks Aren’t Good Enough 1791
- A Plea to Protect Threatened Collections 1792
- Congressional Scorecard Sparks Furor 1793
- Undergraduate Education: In Boston, a Revolutionary Experience 1794

**RESEARCH NEWS**

- Biofilms Invade Microbiology Linking Microbiology and Engineering 1795
- AIDS Research: Receptor Mutations Help Slow Disease Progression 1797
- Quick Work Draws Scientific Praise, Colleagues’ Complaints 1798

**ARTICLES**

- Noble Gases and Earth’s Accretion 1814
- Copper Sources, Metal Production, and Metals Trade in Late Postclassic Mesoamerica 1819

**PERSPECTIVES**

- Flux Lattice Melting 1811
- Is Neural Noise Just a Nuisance? 1812
- A Parallel Spliceosome 1813

**EDITORIAL**

- Cooperation, Competition, and Science Policy 1779

**LETTERS**

- Interleukin-1 Research: T. P. Hopp • On Sociological Biophobia: A. Abbott; J. H. Gagnon • Morality Play: L. Z. Benet; W. R. Debler; J. R. Thomen; E. B. Hook; C. Eckert; D. S. Zinberg 1781

**SCIENCESCOPE**

- Hubble Spectrograph Takes a Hard Look in the Ultraviolet 1799
- Plasmas May Add New Colors to Lasers’ Light Show 1800
- How the Songbird Makes His Song 1801
- Politics Meets Technology in Next Collider 1802

**DEPARTMENTS**

- THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 1773
- POE? • Micromanaging Atoms 1806
- BOOK REVIEWS 1806
- Frontiers of Illusion, reviewed by D. H. Guston • The Evolution and Extinction of the Dinosaurs and Dinosaur Extinction and the End of an Era, D. A. Russell • The Great Dinosaur Extinction Controversy • Vignettes • Books Received 1806
- AAAS NEWS & NOTES 1880
- PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 1882
- QUARTERLY INDEX 1884

**AAAS Board of Directors**

- Rita R. Colwell • Retiring President, Chairman
- Jane Lubchenco • President
- Mildred S. Dresselhaus • President-elect
- Sheila Jasaniot • Treasurer
- Richard S. Nicholson • Executive Officer
- William T. Golden • Secretary

---

*SCIENCE* (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Periodicals Mail postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1996 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): $102 (55% allocated to subscription); Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): $250. Foreign postage extra; Mexico, Caribbean (surface mail) $55; other countries (air assist delivery) $90. First class, airmail, student, and emeritus rates on request. Canadian rates with GST available upon request, GST #1254 881 2. Printed in the U.S.A.
Methane clathrate hydrate, an icy compound capable of sustaining its own combustion, displays intriguing formation kinetics as well as unusual plastic flow properties. Although naturally occurring methane hydrate may harbor the largest untapped reservoir of natural gas on Earth, the material properties of this ephemeral compound are not yet well understood. See page 1843. [Photo: John Pinkston and Laura Stern]