Rhododendron and other alpine flowers at 4300-meter elevation in the Hengduan Mountains in China, home to the world’s oldest alpine plant community.

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An extreme ultraviolet image of a large (X-class) solar flare that occurred on 7 March 2012, combining observations taken at 131 Å (blue) and 171 Å (yellow) using the Solar Dynamics Observatory spacecraft. This flare disrupted radio communications on Earth. Predicting when X-class flares will occur will help to forecast Earth’s space weather. See pages 504 and 587. Credit: NASA/GSFC/SDO
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