

CONTENTS

22 JANUARY 2021 • VOL 371 ISSUE 6527

336

NEWS

IN BRIEF

326 News at a glance

IN DEPTH

329 New mutations raise specter of 'immune escape'

SARS-CoV-2 variants found in Brazil and South Africa may evade human antibodies
By K. Kupferschmidt

331 Disgraced COVID-19 studies are still routinely cited

Journal mentions of studies based on disputed data from Surgisphere often fail to clearly flag retractions
By C. Piller

332 Controversial study says U.S. labs use 111 million mice, rats

Figure is more than seven times some estimates, but critics say analysis is flawed
By D. Grimm
PODCAST

333 What causes IBS pain? Maybe immune flare-ups

New study suggests certain foods trigger a localized reaction in the gut
By J. Couzin-Frankel
PODCAST

334 Global temperatures in 2020 tied record highs

Defying cooling from La Niña, warming planet speeds toward breach of climate targets
By P. Voosen

FEATURES

336 Separation anxiety

Phase separation, an idea about how cells organize their contents and functions into dropletlike compartments, has divided biologists
By M. Leslie

INSIGHTS

PERSPECTIVES

340 Drivers of mosquito mating

Light cycle genes and environmental and chemical cues modulate male mosquito swarming
By N. C. Manoukis
REPORT p. 411



340 & 411

341 Snapshots of a light-triggered transition

A new method captures real-space movies of ordered states on ultrafast time scales
By A. Kogar
REPORT p. 371

343 Thermopower and harvesting heat

A metric to compare low-grade heat-to-electricity conversion can be misleading
By X. Shi and J. He

344 A host metabolite promotes *Salmonella* survival

Succinate is used by *Salmonella* in different ways when it is in macrophages or the gut
By J. P. Lynch and C. F. Lesser
REPORT p. 400

345 Racing against unwanted isomerization

Control of relative reaction rates paves the way for (Z)-alkene stereochemical retention
By S. J. Malcolmson
REPORT p. 380

347 Sex differences in immune responses

Biological sex differences in immunity potentially underlie male bias for severe COVID-19
By T. Takahashi and A. Iwasaki

349 Retrospective: Masatoshi Koshiha (1926–2020)

Innovative founder of neutrino astronomy
By M. Nakahata and A. Suzuki

POLICY FORUM

350 Rethinking immigration policies for STEM doctorates

Many Ph.D.'s follow an inefficient path to green cards through visas aimed at entry-level workers
By M. Roach and J. Skrentny

BOOKS ET AL.

353 Darwin and human evolution

An anniversary appraisal of *The Descent of Man* probes the naturalist's prescience and prejudices
By E. L. Milam

354 A barrier breaker's complicated legacy

Certain of her own exceptional nature, Elizabeth Blackwell dismissed those who aided her
By L. Stark

LETTERS

355 Shortfin mako sharks speeding to the brink

By D. W. Sims et al.

355 Mediterranean sharks and rays need action

By M. Milazzo et al.

356 Tilapia farming threatens Brazil's waters

By P. Charvet et al.

RESEARCH

IN BRIEF

358 From *Science* and other journals

REVIEW

361 Neurodevelopment

Mapping the molecular and cellular complexity of cortical malformations

E. Klingler et al.

REVIEW SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:
DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.ABA4517

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Chromatin

362 JARID2 and AEBP2 regulate PRC2 in the presence of H2AK119ub1 and other histone modifications

V. Kasinath et al.

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY;
FOR FULL TEXT:
DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.ABC3393

363 Regulation of the Dot1 histone H3K79 methyltransferase by histone H4K16 acetylation

M. I. Valencia-Sánchez et al.

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY;
FOR FULL TEXT:
DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.ABC6663

364 Single-cell genomics

Developmental cell programs are co-opted in inflammatory skin disease

G. Reynolds et al.

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:
DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.ABA6500

365 Planet formation

Bifurcation of planetary building blocks during Solar System formation

T. Lichtenberg et al.

REPORTS

371 Ultrafast microscopy

Ultrafast nanoimaging of the order parameter in a structural phase transition

T. Danz et al.

PERSPECTIVE p. 341

375 Surface chemistry

Unraveling CO adsorption on model single-atom catalysts

J. Hulva et al.

380 Organic chemistry

Iridium-catalyzed Z-retentive asymmetric allylic substitution reactions

R. Jiang et al.

PERSPECTIVE p. 345

386 Convergent evolution

Convergent evolution of pain-inducing defensive venom components in spitting cobras

T. D. Kazandjian et al.

PODCAST

390 Solar cells

Nanoscale localized contacts for high fill factors in polymer-passivated perovskite solar cells

J. Peng et al.

396 Sexual dimorphism

Transvection regulates the sex-biased expression of a fly X-linked gene

C. C. Galouzis and B. Prud'homme

400 Host defense

Host succinate is an activation signal for *Salmonella* virulence during intracellular infection

G. Rosenberg et al.

PERSPECTIVE p. 344

405 Immunometabolism

Glycolysis fuels phosphoinositide 3-kinase signaling to bolster T cell immunity

K. Xu et al.

411 Mosquito biology

Clock genes and environmental cues coordinate *Anopheles* pheromone synthesis, swarming, and mating

G. Wang et al.

PERSPECTIVE p. 340

415 Metabolic evolution

Ancient balancing selection maintains incompatible versions of the galactose pathway in yeast

J. Boocock et al.



DEPARTMENTS

325 Editorial

Target student mental well-being

By Alan I. Leshner

434 Working Life

A department terminated

By Paul Bierman

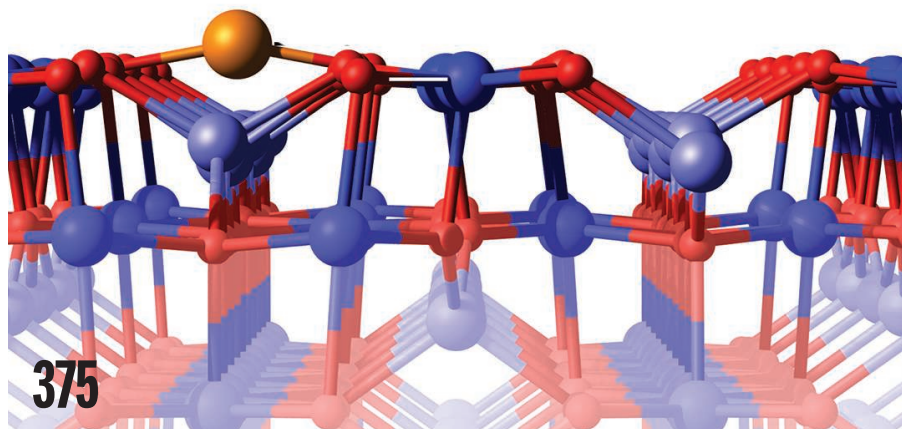
ON THE COVER

Some cobras, such as this Mozambique spitting cobra (*Naja mossambica*), use venom spitting as an effective long-range defense mechanism. The three origins of venom spitting in snakes coincide with convergent changes to venom composition, allowing venom to serve a defensive function by

producing enhanced pain in the recipient. These findings emphasize that evolution can funnel complex adaptations down repeatable pathways. See page 386. Photo: Guy Edwardes/NPL/Minden Pictures



Science Staff	322
AAAS Meeting Program	421
New Products	430
Science Careers	431



375

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