

tunity to consider the large variations that exist among such units within and across provinces.

The data files also include the type of contraceptive being used at the time of the survey (including sterilization), reasons for nonuse, and the number of abortions for the 3½ years preceding the survey. Therefore, it is possible not only to relate these measures to the individual respondent's fertility but also to construct aggregate indices for each of these variables for the production brigades and urban neighborhoods and also for the rural and urban sectors of the provinces in which they are located.

Among the materials prepared for the conference was a set of tables providing age-specific and duration-specific fertility rates for the total, rural, and urban populations of each province for each year from 1940 through 1982. So far as we know, such data have never been available for any other country.

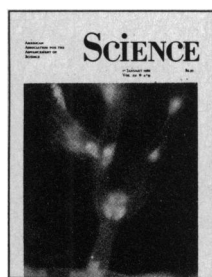
These data were fully available both to the U.S. investigators at the East-West Population Institute and to their Chinese colleagues. The preliminary results were freely discussed at a conference held recently in Beijing. Until 6 or 7 years ago, Chinese population data were held almost as a national secret. Data from the 1953 and 1964 censuses had not been published. It is clear that there has been a profound change in willingness to open Chinese demographic data to the world.

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#### REFERENCES

1. A. Coale, *Rapid Population Change in China, 1952-1982*, Committee on Population and Demography (National Academy Press, Washington, DC, 1984).
2. *Popul. Econ.*, special issue (July 1983).

**Erratum:** The cover caption for the issue of 31 January should have read as follows: COVER Branching colony of the flagellated chrysophyte *Dinobryon cylindricum* var. *palustre*. This phytoplanktonic algal genus is characteristic of nutritionally dilute lakes. Cells can supplement photosynthesis by ingesting bacteria and smaller algae. Note ingested yellow-green latex beads as well as the red fluorescence of cell chlorophyll (about  $\times 1100$ ). See page 493. [David F. Bird, Department of Biology, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1B1]



**Erratum:** The title of the News & Comment article by Marjorie Sun on page 445 of the issue of 31 January should have been "The global fight over plant genes."

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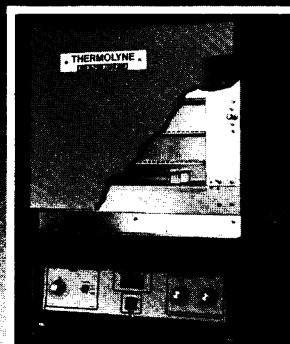
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