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*Mardis, E.R., Roe, B.A. Automated methods for singlestranded DNA isolation and dideoxynucleotide DNA sequencing reactions on a robotic workstation. BioTechniques 7, 840-850 (1989)



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Figure 1. Infected Sf9 insect cells showing viral occlusions.

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COVER Polished surface of a submarine basalt breccia formed by explosions >1800 meters below sea level south of Japan. The clast on the right may be accidental but the surrounding matrix quenched and welded during the submarine eruption. The matrix consists of basalt glass shards with vesicles 0.1 to 0.2 millimeter in diameter. See page 1214. [Shipboard photograph by C. Galida, Ocean Drilling Program. Sample is ODP Leg 126 791B-66R-2, piece 1c; field of view is 1.2 centimeters by 1.8 centimeters.]

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This Week in Science

Getting the lead in

LECTRONIC and structural properties of the bismuth-lead-oxygen layer of a superconductor change as lead atoms are inserted, but analyses with scanning tunneling microscopy and scanning tunneling spectroscopy indicate that these changes are not sufficient to alter the intrinsic superconducting properties of the material (page 1211). In the early studies of hightemperature superconducting materials, lead was among the first metal substituents to be added to superconducting materials, and it was helpful in assessments of the properties of superconductors and in the development of superconducting materials with increasingly high onset temperatures. Wu et al. find that in high-temperature superconductors of the type Pb_xBi_{2-x}Sr₂CaCu₂O₈ lead gets randomly inserted in the bismuth-lead-oxygen layer where it distorts the one-dimensional superlattice; extra oxygen atoms also get incorporated into the bismuth-oxygen lattice. Because the added lead does not significantly perturb the electronic properties of the layer, this layer may only be important to structure but not to functioning of Pb_xBi_{2-x}Sr₂CaCu₂O₈ superconductors.

Bombardier beetles

UCH like a World War II "buzz bomb," the bombardier beetle produces a rapid-fire series of defensive sprays as it battles its enemies (page 1219). Acoustical measurements (little pops are produced with each burst), electrical recordings of the defensive emissions hitting a small force transducer, and high-speed photographs show that the bombardier beetle responds to threats with a p-benzoquinone spray that is released intermittently, at a rate that has been clocked at about 500 pulses per second. Hydroquinones and hydrogen peroxide are stored in muscular reservoirs in the beetle's abdomen; the reservoirs contract and force the fluids through a valve into a thickwalled reaction chamber that contains a

number of oxidative enzymes; there, explosive chemical reactions occur and fine hot mists of *p*-benzoquinones are emitted. Flexibility in the abdominal tip, described as resembling that of a revolvable turret, permits spraying in any direction. A pulsed delivery system of this sort has a number of mechanical and biochemical advantages over a continuous one, and these are discussed by Dean and co-workers.

Viral mimicry of host defense

EMARKABLE homology between genes of a virus and its animal host has led to a proposal that the virus may be exploiting a captured host gene for enhancing its own survival (page 1230). The homologous genes are the BCRF1 gene of the Epstein-Barr virus and the mouse gene CSIF. CSIF expression in mouse T_H^2 helper cells leads to the production of a substance that inhibits cytokine production by $T_H l$ helper cells. The $T_H l$ and $T_H 2$ cells appear to be mutually inhibitory immunoreactive cells. Moore et al. describe the close structural resemblance of the CSIF gene-which they isolated, cloned, and characterized-to BCRF1. They propose that the BCRF1 gene product that is made by the Epstein-Barr virus may act like the CSIF gene product: it might block activities of the T_{H} cells of the host and thereby alter the type of immune response that the host is able to make. The co-opting of host immunoregulatory genes might be a strategy used by a variety of pathogens, not just Epstein-Barr viruses, for improving their chances of survival.

Human trial of AIDS subunit vaccine

MMUNIZATIONS—four shots in 18 months—of human volunteers with a "subunit" vaccine made from the AIDS virus HIV-1 has induced immune responses that result in the killing of HIV-1–infected cells (page 1234). The vaccine contains the HIV-1 enve-

lope precursor protein gp160 produced with recombinant DNA technology. The responding T lymphoid cells, though not typical of T cells that are elicited by natural HIV-1 infections, nonetheless could kill actively infected host cells. Interest in subunit vaccines stems from the fact that they are simpler to make and safer to use than vaccines that contain live attenuated viruses; however, the effectiveness of subunit vaccines ultimately depends on the ability of the soluble materials they contain to elicit immune responses that will counter naturally occurring infections by live viruses. Also, it is thought that the most efficacious vaccines will be those that can protect against crossreacting HIV-1 strains. The initial observations of Orentas et al. suggest that the recombinant gp160 preparation is capable of inducing specific, cross-reacting, and clinically relevant immune responses.

Keeping pace

IRCADIAN rhythms of mammals must be adjusted each day to the sun's 24-hour cycle because the mammalian "free-running" period is longer than a day. The adjustment is brought about daily by light, which hits the retina of the eye, activates the optic nerves, and adjusts the firing and metabolism of cells in the pacemaking suprachiasmatic nucleus in the hypothalamus of the brain. Gene expression in these cells and in other cells known to be involved in the adjustment or entrainment of the rhythm has been studied by Rusak et al. in rats and hamsters. When light pulses were given at certain times in the daily cycle-those times when the animal's rhythm is known to be receptive to light-induced phase shifts-expression of both c-fos and NGFI-A increased (page 1237). The protein products of these two genes are among the intracellular messengers that probably alter DNA transcription, and these proteins may therefore be instrumental in shifting the phase of the organism's circadian rhythm.

RUTH LEVY GUYER



Chromatographers speak out about the Gilson Auto-Prep HPLC system

The Gilson Auto-Prep HPLC system has one pump for mobile phase delivery, another for repetitive sample injection. And that, according to a chromatographer in radiation oncology and cancer research, makes it surprisingly easy to recover trace amounts of protein from complex sample matrices. Repetitive injection of small volumes of sample allows the use of high-efficiency analytical or semi-prep columns for high throughput, excellent resolution, and very pure fractions.

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Dael Wolfle

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