

cer risk estimates at miniscule doses should not be a surrogate for the environment.

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The Avocado Illusion

An interesting review by Dennis R. Proffitt (28 Sept., p. 1590) of the book *The Moon Illusion* by Maurice Hershenson calls to mind a strong and possibly related illusion that I have not seen described previously.

At the risk of having this observation

mistaken for buffoonery, I refer to the apparent size of avocados and other fruit which, when overhead in the tree, appear 20 to 50% larger than when brought down to eye level. I have noticed this for several years and have discussed it with other lay observers who confirm the illusion. Some of the effect should undoubtedly be attributed to disillusion rather than illusion. However, I find a similar effect with a tennis ball hung in the upper branches.

The fact that this "avocado illusion" is exactly the opposite of the moon illusion is an intriguing aspect that should be of interest to students of experimental psychology.

Although this report may generate a smile, it is not a canard. As illusions go, this one is very real. Or at least, it seems to be.

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Erratum: In Marcia Barinaga's Research News article "Biology goes to the movies" (30 Nov., p. 1204), the journal *Anatomical Record* was incorrectly referred to as the "Antomical Review" at the end of the third column on page 1205.

Erratum: In the Erratum (7 Dec., p. 1320) about the Editors' response to George Legge's letter of 16 November (p. 889), the error was not corrected: Reference should have been made to a "300-nm beam spot," not a "300- μ m beam spot."

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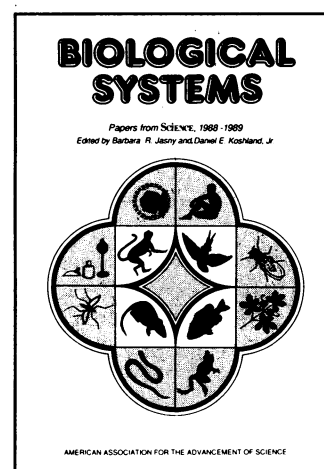
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