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of the TetM/O proteins to bacterial elongation factors, the implication being that the resistance protein may substitute for the cellular enzyme in some manner. We (2), and others (3), have shown that resistance mediated by TetM/O is due to a soluble protein that protects the translation machinery from the inhibitory effects of tetracycline.

Neu is correct in stating that the genes encoding the ribosome protection mechanism are prevalent among bacterial pathogens. This host range includes not only enterococci, where it can be shown to be present in more than 90% of all isolates, but also *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, mycoplasma, ureaplasma, clostridia, bacteroides (4), and campylobacter (4), where tetracycline antibiotics are normally clinically effective.

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Enigmatic Arctic Cloud Plumes

Cloud plumes of enigmatic origin that appear to emanate from around Bennett Island in the East Siberian Arctic were discussed in a Research News article by Richard A. Kerr (3 July, p. 35). Our letter of 30 October (p. 725) pointed out that the plume illustrated in the article was not coincident with the U.S.–Russian atmospheric sampling overflights this past April. Our letter also stated that satellite data archived by the National Weather Service (collected at the Gilmore Creek, Alaska, receiving station) did not contain images with clear plumes during this same period. However, data have subsequently been provided to us that were downloaded from a temporary receiving station set up for the U.S.–Russian sampling project. Those temporary station data show plumes occurring over Bennett Island that were coincident with the U.S.–Russian atmospheric sampling overflights. During these sampling flights no elevated methane concentrations were reported.

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