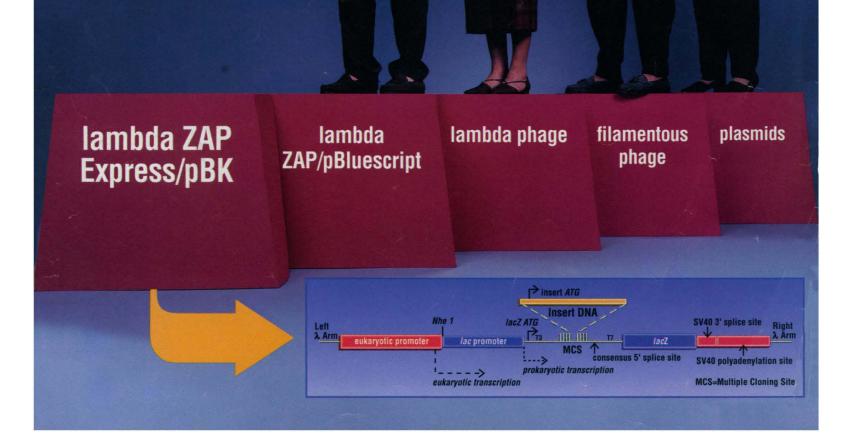
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# SCIENCE

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Genes & Behavior

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The ZAP Express vector now makes it possible to construct, screen and analyze clones or cDNA libraries in an excisable lambda phage vector by DNA hybridization, prokaryotic expression or eukaryotic expression, without the need for subcloning.

#### **References:**

- 1. Alting-Mees, M.A., et al. (1992) Strategies. Volume 5, Number 3.
- Alting-Mees, M.A., Vaillancourt, P., and Short, J.M. (1993) "Phagemids and Other Hybrid Vectors" in *Plasmids <u>A Practical Approach</u>* (K.G. Hardy, ed.) pp 197-223.
- 3. Short, J.M., et al. (1988) Nucleic Acids Res. 16: 7583-7600.
- 4. Short, J.M., and Sorge, J.A. (1992) Methods Enzymol. 216: 495-508.

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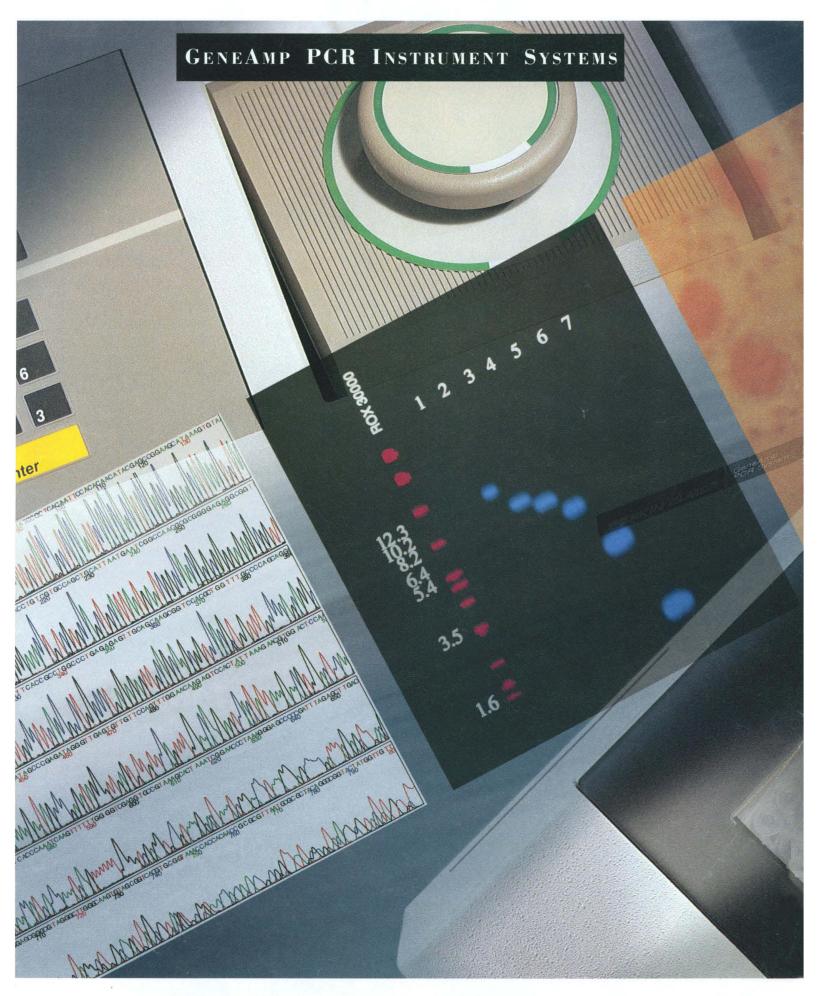
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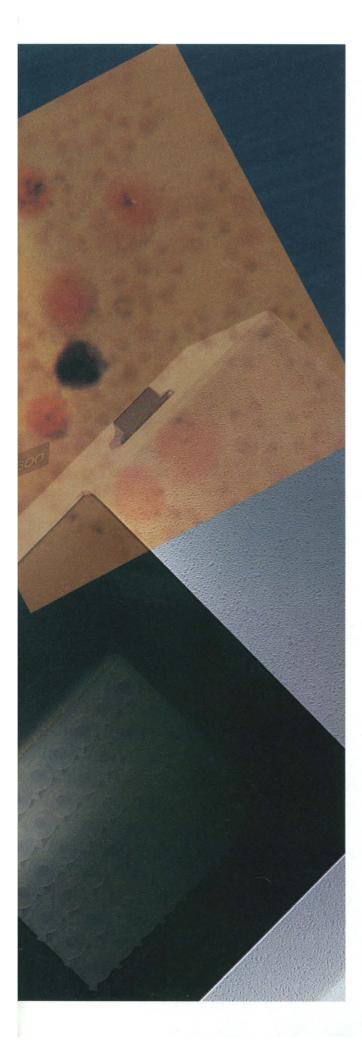
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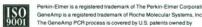
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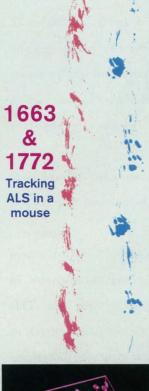
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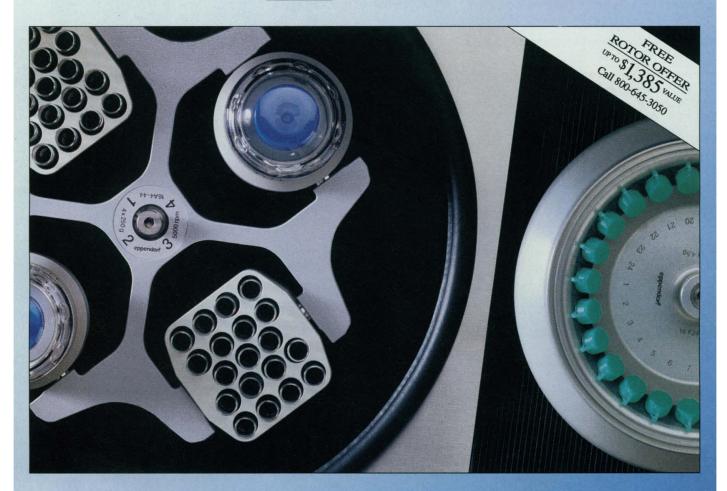


1762 **Biocontrol of a** tree fungus

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# THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

#### Absolute values

Spectroscopy is a powerful method for determining the structure and properties of molecules, but the intensity of spectroscopic transitions depends not only on the number of molecules present but also on the strength of the transition dipole moments. Line strengths can be measured for stable species by absorption spectroscopy, but not for transient or unstable species, such as those in a flame or an astrophysical environment. Germann and Rakestraw (p. 1750) show that by combining the measurements of a molecular transition from two different spectroscopic techniques, for example, absorption and infrared degenerate four-wave mixing, it is possible to measure absolute concentrations of the carriers of molecular spectra.

#### Vesicle assembly

Assembly of vesicles into larger arrays could have applications in areas as diverse as drug delivery and the formation of soft composite materials. Chiruvolu *et al.* (p. 1753) investigated the

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self-assembly of lipid vesicles and found that while vesicles will adhere to one another through nonspecific van der Waals forces, the resulting structures are stressed and unstable. However, they found that specific receptor interactions could be used to stabilize vesicle assembly. They coupled biotin to a lipid group so that biotin could be incorporated into the vesicle

#### Quantum emitters, one at a time

Photoluminescence is a powerful tool for studying the energetics of quantum-confined, two-dimensional systems such as quantum wells. Of necessity, measurements with this technique are averages of a distribution of the light-emitting centers. Hess *et al.* (p. 1740) report the use of near-field optical scanning spectroscopy to examine individual emission sites in a gallium arsenide quantum well. The combination of high spatial and energy resolution permits analysis of single optically active centers in layered materials.

wall; addition of streptavidin produced stable aggregates. This process could be reversed by adding excess biotin.

#### .

#### **Polymer nanowires**

Zeolites contain arrays of angstrom-wide channels that presumably could form the insulating grid that would hold wires of conducting polymers that could interconnect nanoscale devices. Polymer filaments can be grown in these channels, but trapping severely limits their electrical conductivity. Wu and Bein (p. 1757) formed filaments of polyaniline in the mesoporous aluminosilicate material MCM-41, which has wider channels (2.7 nanometers). They adsorbed aniline vapor into the dry material and then reacted it with peroxodisulfate. Wider is indeed better; these encapsulated filaments, which are in the protonated emeraldine salt form, show significant conductivity as measured by microwave absorption methods.

## Churning up pollutants

.

Thunderstorms rapidly redistribute air and associated trace pollutants vertically and thus efficiently mix the troposphere. The induced upward transport of pollutants, particularly  $NO_x$ (the main precursor to ozone), tends to enhance production of tropospheric ozone. Lelieveld and Crutzen (p. 1759) evaluate both this process and the more gradual descent of air rich in natural NO<sub>x</sub> and ozone (from the stratosphere, for example) in a series of numerical simulations. The net effect globally of the convection produced by thunderstorms is a reduction in tropospheric ozone and an enhancement of the oxidative capacity of the atmosphere.

#### Infecting fungi

Fungal infections can have devastating effects on a plant species, as has occurred in chestnut blight. However, the chestnut blight fungus Cryphonectria parasitica can itself become infected by the mycoviruses of the Hypovirus genus, and such infection attenuates the virulence of this fungus. Virally infected fungi would be useful in the biological control of disease, but mycoviruses are transmitted only during anastomisis (fusion of hyphae). Chen et al. (p. 1762) overcame the difficulties of inducing mycovirus infection by introducing a synthetic copy of the hypovirus RNA-coding strand into fungus spheroplasts by electroporation. By using this approach, they were able to infect not only C. parasitica but other fungal species. For example, infection of Endothia gyrosa, which infects mainly pin oak, resulted in attenuated virulence.

#### Stimulating recovery

One part of our body that does not heal well is the adult central nervous system (CNS). The regrowth of damaged nerve cells is inhibited by molecules produced by supporting cells of the CNS, oligodendrocytes. Eitan et al. (p. 1764) injected transglutaminase into the injured optic nerves of rats. This enzyme is known to have a cytotoxic effect on oligodendrocytes in vitro. This treatment promoted restoration of neural function as assessed by recovery of a visually evoked response and the appearance of unmyelinated axons that resemble those of growing neurons.

#### **Mice and ALS**

Mice that express one of the mutant forms of human Cu,Zn superoxide dismutase (SOD) that has been associated with familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) become paralvzed and die prematurelv due to motor neuron degeneration. Gurney et al. (p. 1772; see news story by Marx, p. 1663) produced transgenic mice that expressed mutant forms of human SOD, either Val substituted for Ala<sup>4</sup> or Ala substituted for Gly<sup>93</sup>. The former mutation substantially reduces enzyme activity, but mice expressing this form of SOD did not exhibit neurological symptoms. The latter mutation has little effect on enzyme activity, but mice expressing large amounts of this mutant SOD developed hind limb weakness at 3 to 4 months of age. The gait of these mice became affected, limb paralysis and tremors developed, and after 5 to 6 months the mice died. Pathological analysis revealed a severe loss of spinal motor neurons that contained choline acetyltransferase.

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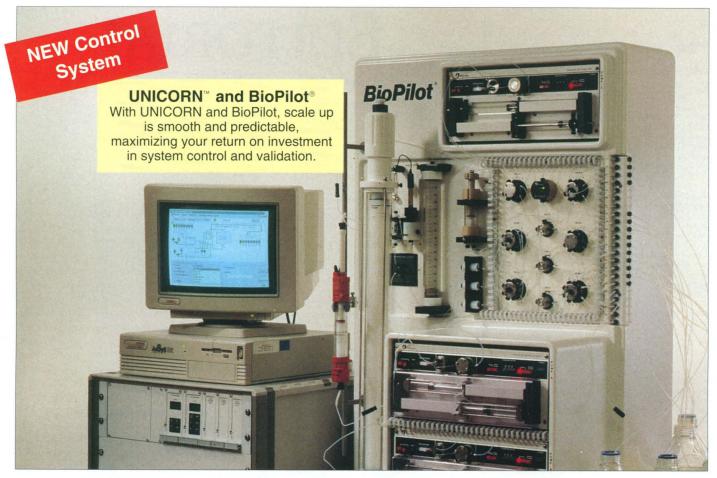
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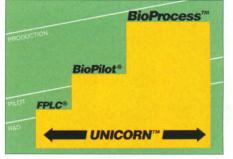
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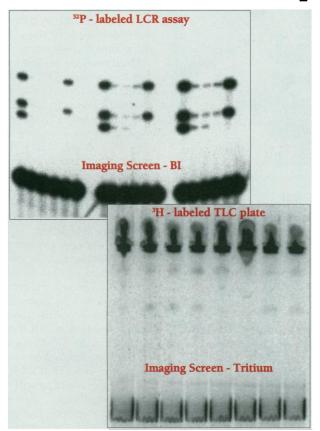
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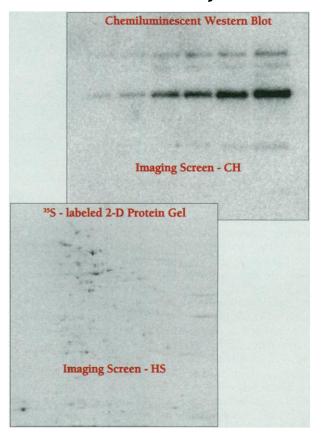
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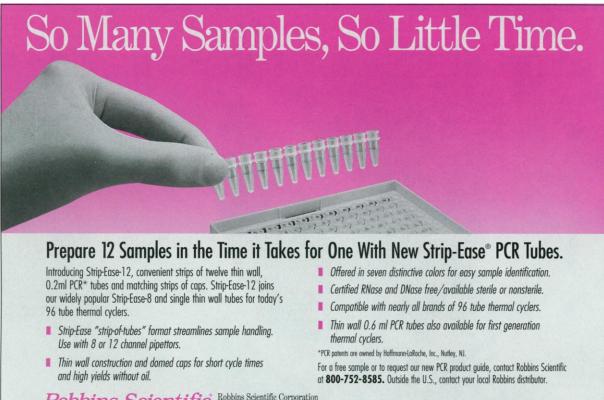


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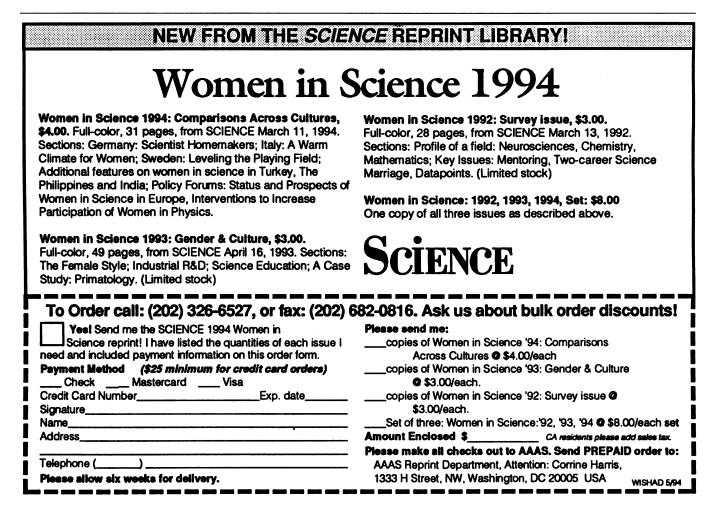


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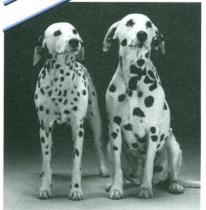
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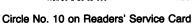


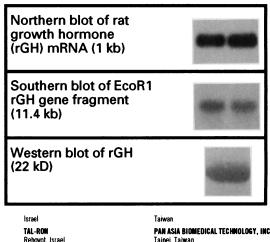
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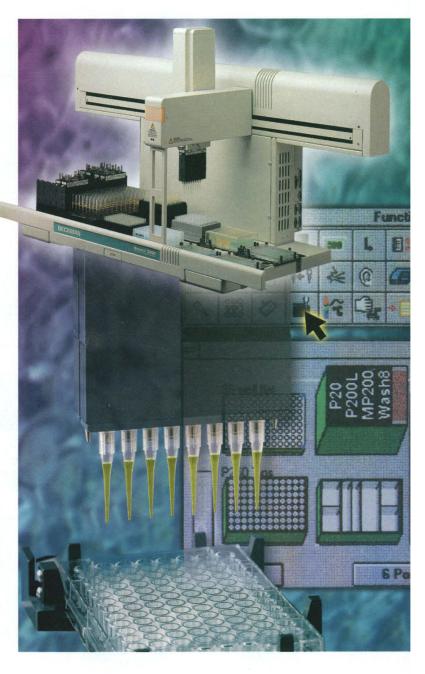
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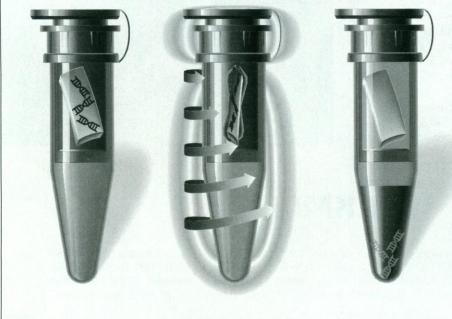
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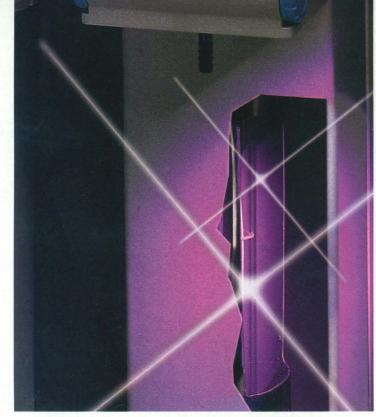
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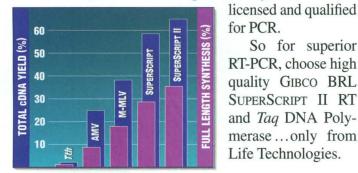
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94-067

Amplification from 5'end of 6.8-kb mRNA for human DNA pol $\varepsilon$ using oligo(dŤ) primed cDNA from 10, 1, or 0.1 ng HeLa total RNA.

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Product	Cat. No.	Size
SUPERSCRIPT <sup>™</sup> II RNase H⁻ Reverse Transcriptase & Buffer	18064-014	10,000 units
Tag DNA Polymerase*& Buffer	18038-018	100 units
	18038-042	500 units
	18038-067	1,500 units



## Producer of GIBCO BRL Products

Purchase of this product is accompanied by a license to use it in the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) process in conjunction with an authorized thermal cycler.

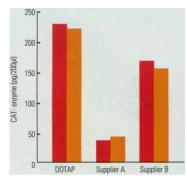
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# Gentle efficiency

Like the bees and wasps it closely resembles, the hover fly efficiently carries pollen between a vast variety of flowers. But unlike its more dangerous counterparts, this harmless species neither bites nor stings.

In the same way, Boehringer Mannheim's transfection reagent (DOTAP) performs a vital function in your lab, efficiently carrying DNA, RNA, proteins or peptides into a multitude of cell lines. Gentle like the hover fly, DOTAP does not exhibit the cytotoxicity of other liposome-mediated techniques or the inconvenience of more traditional transfection methods.



Comparison of transfection efficiencies of different lipcome-mediated reagents. COS-1 cells at 60% confluency were transfected for 8 hours with 5 µg pSV2-CAT DNA in 6 ml of medium containing 10% Fetal CaH Serum. Liposomal transfection reagents from Boehringer Mannheim, Supplier A, and Supplier B were used in the transfection. After 48 hours of stimulation, the cells were lysed and analyzed for CAT expression with the Boehringer Mannheim norradioactive CAT ELISA. The CAT expression indicates the efficiency of the transfection. The reproducibility of results is indicated by the orange bars (Experiment 1) and gold bars (Experiment 2).

# Avoid the inconvenience of serum removal

DOTAP delivers high-efficiency transfections even in the presence of serum. Eliminate the inconvenience of removing your cells from serum. Avoid a potential risk to your cells.

### **Efficiency without cytotoxicity**

Boehringer Mannheim's DOTAP is gentle and non-toxic to your cells, increasing cell viability and resulting in significantly higher transfection efficiencies. DOTAP's molecular structure includes ester linkages, which are easily cleaved by natural cellular esterases. Other liposomal reagents contain ether linkages that cannot be hydrolyzed by the cell, resulting in cytotoxicity and decreased cell viability.

#### Flexible, fast, and easy to use

DOTAP produces high-efficiency transfections in most cell lines, including both adherent and suspension cultures. This fact, combined with DOTAP's ability to perform both stable and transient transfections, eliminates the need to use multiple techniques.

For efficient transfections without cytotoxicity, try DOTAP transfection reagent today! For more information or to place your order, contact your Boehringer Mannheim representative or call us at 1-800-262-1640 (514-686-7141 in Canada).



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