misinin, a promising new therapy for chloroquine-resistant malaria.

For each beneficial discovery, a large variety of species must be examined. Thus, scientific success in natural product drug discovery depends on biological diversity, which represents nature's myriad solutions to challenges of species survival. A strong, effective, and well-funded Endangered Species Act provides a safety net for the diversity of life on Earth and so ensures that biomedical science will be able to continue to learn from nature.

Michael Clegg (Chair of the Committee on Scientific Issues in the Endangered Species Act of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences) has written (*1*, p. 3; *2*) that

> The ultimate goal of the Endangered Species Act is to ensure the long-term survival of a species . . . the current rate of extinction is among the highest in the entire fossil record, in large part due to human activity. The introduction of nonnative species and especially the degradation and loss of habitat are causing extinctions at a rate that many scientists consider a crisis.

Congress should accept the 1995 findings and recommendations of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences in its reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. This independent scientific body found (*1*, p. 3; *2*) that "There has been a good match between science and the Endangered Species Act," and has emphasized that habitat protection on both federal and private lands is required for effective species protection.

A healthy future for humans depends on a healthy future for the species with which we share the Earth.

Paul F. Torrence
15105 Watergate Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20905, USA

References

1. M. T. Clegg, "Public briefing to release the National Research Council report on science and the Endangered Species Act" (Washington, DC, 24 May 1995).
2. "Science and the Endangered Species Act," prepublication copy available from the National Research Council–National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418, USA.

■

Garlic and Mosquitoes

The report that marigold toxins kill mosquito larvae (*1*) (Random Samples, 12 May, p. 809) is not necessarily unique. S. V. Amankan and others previously reported (*2*) that diallyl disulfide, a major component of garlic that contributes a large share of its odor and flavor, readily kills mosquito larvae. I believe I have observed such an effect. In 1989, the severity of onion and garlic white rot disease was so great in a standing garlic field in central Oregon that the crop was a total loss, even though half or more of the plants remained alive in mid-June. To prevent further increase in the inoculum, to reduce the population of the fungal pathogen *Sclerotium cepivorum*, and to kill off the remaining garlic (which would become a weed in subsequent crops), we flooded the field continuously between June and November. I waded weekly through the field collecting soil samples to monitor pathogen and garlic survival (*3*). No mosquitoes materialized in the field during these months, nor did the farmer who lived adjacent to the field notice any mosquitoes that summer. There were, however, many other insects and other invertebrates present in abundance. A slight garlic odor suggested that diallyl disulfide was leaking from the decaying garlic.

Fred Crowe
Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center,
Oregon State University,
Madras, OR 97741, USA

References

1. A. Sharma, *Indian J. Exp. Biol.* **32**, 745 (1994).

2. S. V. Amankan and B. L. Reeves, *J. Econ. Entomol.* **63**, 1172 (1970); S. V. Amonkar and A. Banerji, *Science* **174**, 1343 (1971).
3. F. J. Crowe and J. Debons, *Phytopathology* **82**, 1108 (1992).

■

"Not-Even-a-Draft?"

The headline of a Science Scope item (18 Aug., p. 911) declares, "Major EMF report warns of health risks." There is no report. This is acknowledged in the text that follows, but the implication is that it's just a matter of time. It is more likely that the not-even-a-draft was leaked by its authors precisely because they knew its prospects for adoption by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) lie somewhere between slim and zero. It is based on information that other organizations, including the American Physical Society (APS), have dismissed as inconclusive or worse.

Robert L. Park
American Physical Society,
529 14th Street, NW, Suite 1050,
Washington, DC 20045, USA

Response: Park correctly points out that the information on which the NCRP panel based its draft report has been dismissed by others, including Park's own organization. We should have stated that explicitly. However, Park oversteps the mark. In a widely disseminated electronic newsletter, Park said the draft report "hasn't even been approved by the panel itself," and in his letter he calls it "not-even-a-draft." That's news to the panel members with whom we spoke and the executive director of the NCRP, who all told *Science* that the draft has been approved by the panel and sent on to the NCRP for review. As our item pointed out, it now faces an extensive and rigorous review process, standard practice for NCRP reports.—***Editors***

■

Pioneering Work

In the introduction of their Research Article reporting the total nucleotide sequence of the *Haemophilus influenzae* genome (R. D. Fleischmann *et al.*, 28 July, p. 496), J. Craig Venter and his colleagues write that bacteriophage ϕX174 was the first viral or organellar genome to be completely sequenced in 1977 by F. Sanger and his colleagues. May I point out that, although this is true for DNA molecules, the first viral genome to be completely sequenced was that of the RNA bacteriophage MS2 (*1*).

W. Fiers
Laboratory of Molecular Biology,
University of Gent,
B-9000 Gent, Belgium

References

1. W. Fiers *et al.*, *Nature* **260**, 500 (1976).

Response: We wish to add to our Research Article acknowledgment of the pioneering work of Fiers and his colleagues and that of Joachim Messing and his colleagues. Fiers completed the publication of the sequence of the 3569 base pair (bp) RNA bacteriophage MS2 in April 1976 with the sequence of the third gene (replicase gene) from bacteriophage MS2. Messing's contributions of a set of M13-derived vectors, his pioneering work in the development of shotgun sequencing strategies, and the sequencing of the 8031-bp cauliflower mosaic virus in 1981 (*1*) are lasting contributions that we continue to build on today.

J. Craig Venter
Institute for Genomic Research,
9712 Medical Center Drive,
Rockville, MD 20850, USA

References

1. J. Messing *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* **9**, 2871 (1981).