

Tree Rarity

In a discussion of the rarest trees in North America, Loren Rieseberg (Letters, 5 Jan., p. 16) refers to two matform, creeping manzanitas, subspecies of *Arctostaphylos hookeri* that are indeed very rare, but are by no means trees. A good example within *Arctostaphylos* might have been *A. confertiflora* Eastwood, an extremely rare endemic of Santa Rosa Island, California, that is sometimes arborescent (1).

A more appropriate choice for the southeastern United States (the rarity of the Florida *Torreya* was the point of origin of the discussion) might be *Franklinia alata-maha* Marsh of Georgia. Although the *Franklinia* tree survives in cultivation, it has been extinct in nature for two centuries, possibly because the discoverers, the Bartrams of Philadelphia, had dug up all the individuals of a small remnant population (2).

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References

1. P. V. Wells, in *The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California*, J. C. Hickman, Ed. (Univ. of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 1993).
2. E. T. Wherry, *Wash. Acad. Sci. J.* **18**, 172 (1928).

Galaxy in Virgo: Aesthetically Uninteresting?

I greatly enjoyed the picture of the M84 and M86 galaxy fields in Virgo "Cool gas in the Virgo cluster?" (Perspectives, 1 Mar., p. 1244). They're my favorite galaxy fields. No matter that the picture doesn't show the featured galaxy, M87, which is a few degrees away to the southeast in a less aesthetically interesting field.

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Editor's note: Kleinmans is correct. The photograph accompanying the Perspective showed another region of the Virgo Cluster that did not include M87. We regret the error in the caption.

Corrections and Clarifications

The GenBank accession numbers for the sequences of the two apoptosis-linked genes ALG-2 and ALG-3, reported in "Interfering with apoptosis: Ca²⁺-binding protein ALG-2 and Alzheimer's disease gene ALG-3" by P. Vito *et al.* (Reports, 26 Jan., p. 521) were inadvertently omitted. They are, respectively, U49112 and U49111.

Throughout the letter of 26 January from Pekka E. Kauppi (p. 431), the word "petagrams" was incorrectly given as "pentagrams."

In the report "Structure of the heat shock protein chaperonin-10 of *Mycobacterium leprae*" by S. C. Mande *et al.* (12 Jan., p. 203), the address for V. Mehra should have read, "Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461, USA" and that for B. R. Bloom should have read "Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461, USA."

The Random Sample item "Battle brewing over endangered species" (22 Dec., p. 1927) indicated incorrectly that Senator Dirk Kempthorne is a senator from Utah. He is a Republican senator from Idaho.

Letters to the Editor

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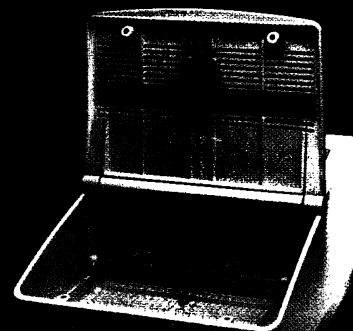
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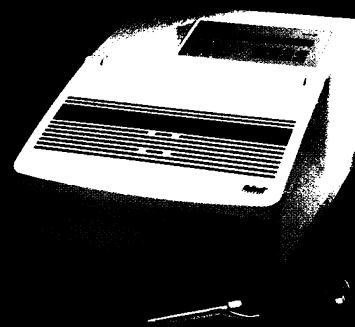
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