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COVER Coarse residue from a Miocene limestone of New Zealand consists of skeletal fragments of cheilostomes and cyclostomes, two bryozoan groups that responded differently to the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction. The diversity of both groups was reduced by the extinction, but while cheilostomes remained relatively more diverse, the cyclostomes became more abundant for several million years. [Photograph: H. Taylor]



768

Hostile environment
for genetically
engineered crops

DEPARTMENTS

NETWATCH
747

**THIS WEEK IN
SCIENCE**
749

SCIENCESCOPE
761

RANDOM SAMPLES
777

**ESSAY ON SCIENCE
AND SOCIETY**
by T. Tachibana
778

CONTACT SCIENCE
781

NEW PRODUCTS
843

NEWS

NEWS OF THE WEEK

- 758 **PHYSICS: Practical Tests for an 'Untestable' Theory of Everything?**
- 759 **SCIENCE APPOINTMENTS: Physicist Named Japan's Education Minister**
- 761 **ENERGY: Fusion Facility Faces Fall Deadline**
- 762 **SUPERCOMPUTING: Computer Experts Urge New Federal Initiative**
- 762 **PHYSICS: Gravity Measurements Ride the Atom Wave**
- 763 **PROTEIN CHEMISTRY: A Two-Piece Protein Assembles Itself**
- 764 **PHYSICS: Accelerator Gets Set to Explore Cosmic Bias**
- 765 **SPACE: Engineers Dream of Practical Star Flight**

767 **BIOTECH REGULATIONS: Paving the Way for British Xenotransplants**

767 **SCIENCE POLICY: USGS Nominee Breaks Ground**

NEWS FOCUS

768 **PLANT GENETICS: Agricultural Biotech Faces Backlash in Europe**
Can Regulations Requiring Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods Work?

771 **RADIO ASTRONOMY: China Hopes to Move FAST on Largest Telescope**

773 **RUSSIAN MUSEUMS: Fight Erupts Over Rights to Profits From Holdings**

774 **MAMMALIAN EVOLUTION: New Views of the Origins of Mammals**

RESEARCH

REPORTS

- 797 **The Magnetic Stability of Spin-Dependent Tunneling Devices** S. Gider, B.-U. Runge, A. C. Marley, S. S. P. Parkin
- 799 **Evidence of Soft-Mode Quantum Phase Transitions in Electron Double Layers** V. Pellegrini, A. Pinczuk, B. S. Dennis, A. S. Plaut, L. N. Pfeiffer, K. W. West
- 802 **Preparation of Photonic Crystals Made of Air Spheres in Titania** J. E. G. J. Wijnhoven and W. L. Vos
- 805 **Diffusion Kinetics of Samarium and Neodymium in Garnet, and a Method for Determining Cooling Rates of Rocks** J. Ganguly, M. Tirone, R. L. Hervig
- 807 **Decoupled Temporal Patterns of Evolution and Ecology in Two Post-Paleozoic Clades** F. K. McKinney, S. Lidgard, J. J. Sepkoski Jr., P. D. Taylor



809 **In Situ Observations of a High-Pressure Phase of H₂O Ice** I.-M. Chou, J. G. Blank, A. F. Goncharov, H.-k. Mao, R. J. Hemley

812 **Evidence Against a Significant Younger Dryas Cooling Event in New Zealand** C. Singer, J. Shulmeister, B. McLea

814 **Callosal Window Between Prefrontal Cortices: Cognitive Interaction to Retrieve Long-Term Memory** I. Hasegawa, T. Fukushima, T. Ihara, Y. Miyashita



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EDITORIAL

- 781 **Korean Science and Technology** C.-H. Kang

LETTERS

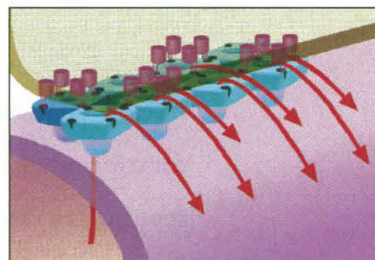
- 783 **The New Look** N. A. Halasz, P. Mail, S. Rabitan, J. Rubin, L. Stephan, B. Cooper, D. Eisinger; **Making the Case for Science** M. Woolley; **Dangerous Mixture** J. Angus; **Response** Y. Li; **The Advanced Tokamak** R. D. Hazeltine G. A. Navratil, W. M. Nevins, M. Porkolab, N. R. Sauthoff, T. C. Simonen, W. M. Stacey; **Indian Science** T. B. Reddy; **Response** G. Padmanaban; **Arsenic-Laced Water in Chile** M. L. Biggs, R. Haque, L. Moore, A. Smith, C. Ferreccio, C. Hopenhayn-Rich; **Household Antibiotic Storage** X. Bosch; **Response** R. J. Williams

POLICY

- 786 **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Database Protection and Access to Information** W. Gardner and J. Rosenbaum

BOOKS AND NEW MEDIA

- 788 **ECOLOGY: *The Ecological Detective Confronting Models with Data*** R. Hilborn and M. Mangel, reviewed by T. E. Miller and G. LeBuhn
- 789 **SOFTWARE: *NeuroShell Easy Predictor, Classifier, Run-Time***, reviewed by J. Wass



790

Coordinated calcium release in muscle

PERSPECTIVES

- 790 **MUSCLE CONTRACTION: Coordinated Feet and the Dance of Ryanodine Receptors** D. M. Bers and M. Fill
- 791 **PALEOMAGNETISM: A Complex Field** R. Van der Voo
- 792 **QUANTUM COMPUTING: Beyond Factorization and Search** L. K. Grover
- 794 **DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROSCIENCE: Choline, a Vital Amine** J. K. Blusztajn

ONLINE PRODUCTS AND FEATURES

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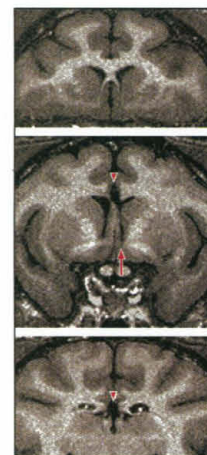
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- ▼ 818
790 **Coupled Gating Between Individual Skeletal Muscle Ca^{2+} Release Channels (Ryanodine Receptors)** S. O. Marx, K. Ondrias, A. R. Marks
- 821 **Role of Phosphorylation in Regulation of the Assembly of Endocytic Coat Complexes** V. I. Slepnev, G.-C. Ochoa, M. H. Butler, D. Grabs, P. De Camilli
- 825 **How Temperature Changes Reset a Circadian Oscillator** Y. Liu, M. Meroow, J. J. Loros, J. C. Dunlap
- 829 **RNA-Mediated Trans-Activation of Transcription from a Viral RNA** T. L. Sit, A. A. Vaewhongs, S. A. Lommel
- 832 **Role of IQGAP1, a Target of the Small GTPases Cdc42 and Rac1, in Regulation of E-Cadherin-Mediated Cell-Cell Adhesion** S. Kuroda, M. Fukata, M. Nakagawa, K. Fujii, T. Nakamura, T. Ookubo, I. Izawa, T. Nagase, N. Nomura, H. Tani, I. Shoji, Y. Matsuura, S. Yonehara, K. Kaibuchi

- 835 **Positive Selection Through a Motif in the $\alpha\beta$ T Cell Receptor** B. T. Bäckström, U. Müller, B. Hausmann, E. Palmer
- 838 **DARPP-32: Regulator of the Efficacy of Dopaminergic Neurotransmission** A. A. Fienberg, N. Hiroi, P. G. Mermelstein, W.-J. Song, G. L. Snyder, A. Nishi, A. Cheramy, J. P. O'Callaghan, D. B. Miller, D. G. Cole, R. Corbett, C. N. Haile, D. C. Cooper, S. P. Onn, A. A. Grace, C. C. Ouimet, F. J. White, S. E. Hyman, D. J. Surmeier, J.-A. Girault, E. J. Nestler, P. Greengard

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

Allometric Scaling in Biology H. Kurz, K. Sandau, T. H. Dawson, J. H. Brown, B. J. Enquist, G. B. West
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/281/5378/751a



814

Memories crossing the corpus callosum

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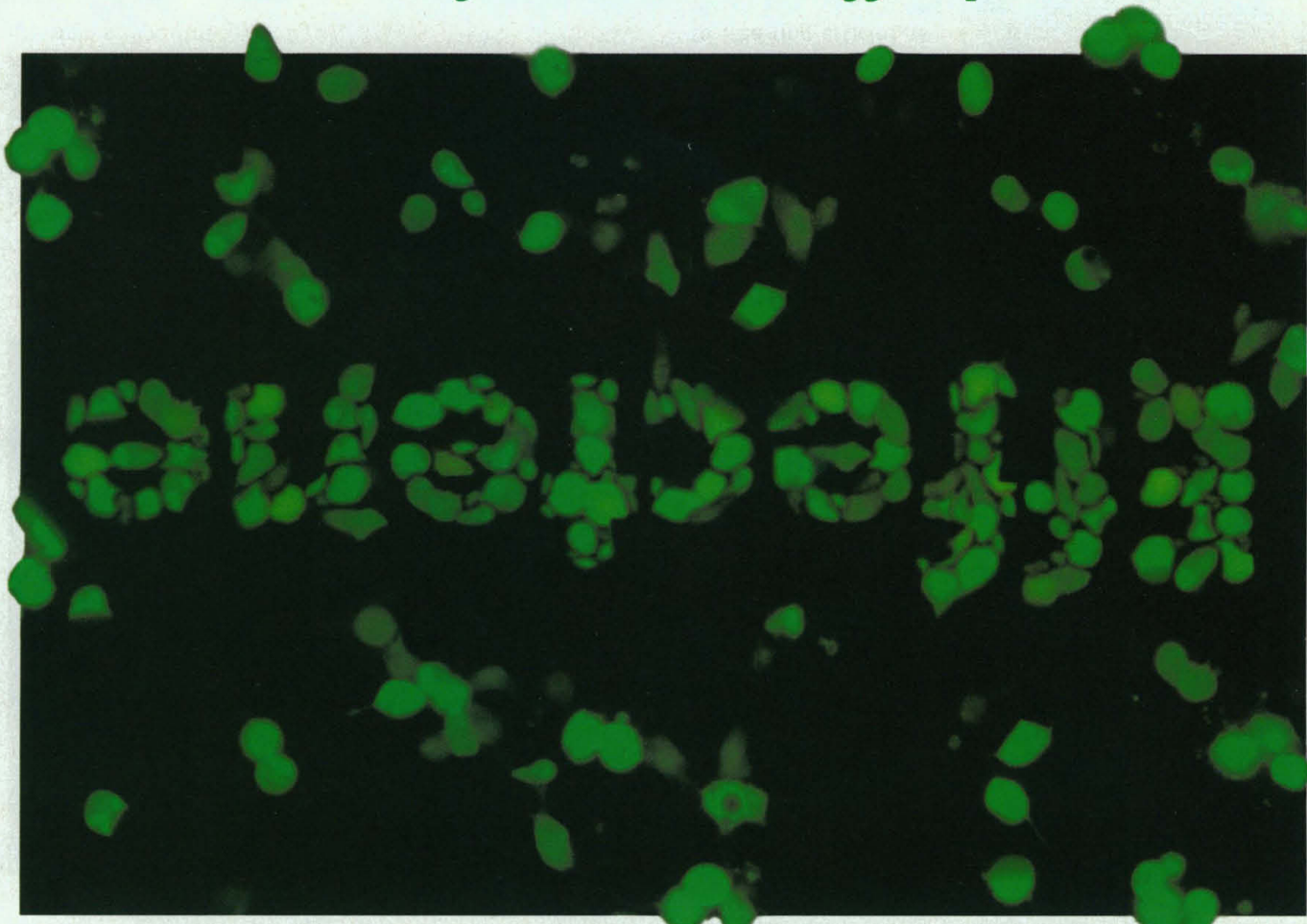
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STABILIZING MAGNETIC MEMORY DEVICES

Spin valve devices change their resistance by switching the magnetic alignment of one of two ferromagnetic films separated by a nonmagnetic metal film—the resistance is lower when the magnetizations are aligned. The change in resistance can serve as a memory element that remains even after power to the device is switched off. Improved performance has been seen in tunnel junctions, which replace the nonmagnetic metal with a thin oxide layer, but an outstanding problem is that switching one layer's magnetization can eventually demagnetize the reference film. Gider *et al.* (p. 797) show that a magnetically soft exchange-biased reference layer that was stabilized with an adjacent antiferromagnetic film was much more stable to repeated magnetization reversals (10^7) than was a single magnetically hard layer.

PHOTONIC CRYSTALS FROM TITANIUM DIOXIDE

Photonic band gaps can be formed by creating ordered dielectric composite materials with lattice spacings on the order of the light's wavelength and are of interest because of their unusual optical properties. In the visible and infrared region, macroporous materials are being pursued as photonic materials; however, to exhibit strong photonic properties, the pore material needs to be formed from a material with a refractive index at least twice that of air. Wijnhoven and Vos (p. 802) have created photonic crystals from the anatase polymorph of titanium dioxide (TiO_2) using a colloidal crystal of nanoscale latex beads as a template; several reaction cycles were used to fill in the void space with TiO_2 . The materials exhibit opalescence and are strongly photonic, showing Bragg reflection intensities nearly large enough to exhibit a photonic band gap, a particular frequency range over which light will not propagate through the crystal.

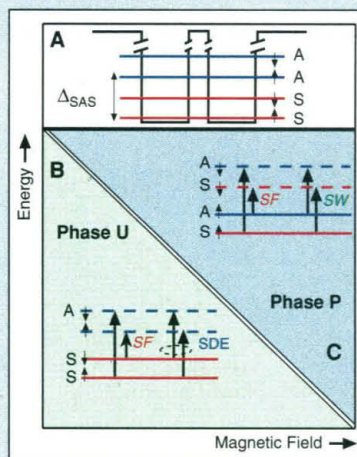
PERHAPS WETTER, BUT NOT COOLER

The Younger Dryas (YD) was a sudden return to glacial conditions during the last deglaciation. It is well recognized in the Northern Hemisphere; whether the event affected the Southern Hemisphere has been uncertain but is critical for understanding its origin. Earlier work showed that the Franz Josef Glacier in New Zealand

land advanced during the YD; this study has been considered as the best evidence for a YD event in the Southern Hemisphere. Singer *et al.* (p. 812) now present pollen records from glacial ponds in New Zealand that show little change in temperatures during the YD. The data suggest that if the YD occurred, it was perhaps associated with wetter, not cooler climates there.

QUANTUM PHASE TRANSITIONS AND SOFT MODES

At low temperatures, a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) can form quantum Hall states. The excited states of these systems are characterized by particle-hole pair formation, which can lead to low-energy collective-mode states (magneto-roton minima) at particular magnetic field strengths. Pellegrini *et al.* (p. 799) studied the interaction of two closely coupled



2DEGs by inelastic light scattering and found evidence for quantum phase transitions between three distinct spin phases as the energy of these collective excitations approached zero and became "soft" (that is, exhibited large fluctuations). The instabilities that drive such transitions arise from the interplay between Coulomb interactions and Zeeman splittings.

DIVERSE BUT NOT ABUNDANT

The long-term pattern of evolution and extinction has usually been interpreted in terms of the total diversity of different species, genera, or families. McKinney *et al.* (p. 807; see the cover) show that the pattern of ecological dominance may not

be well represented by this metric. They examined the ecological dominance of two marine bryozoan clades over the last 150 million years by considering the skeletal mass preserved in continental shelf sedimentary rocks. The data show, for example, that immediately after the Cretaceous extinction, the diversity of one clade was not greatly affected but its ecological abundance was greatly reduced.

BRINGING BACK OLD MEMORIES

The inferior temporal cortex is the repository for memories of visual objects, whereas the prefrontal cortex has been implicated in executive processes such as retrieving visual memories. Hasegawa *et al.* (p. 814) examine the role of the corpus callosum (CC), the structure that connects the two hemispheres, in the transfer of memories. They find that a learned association between two visual objects that has been encoded in one hemisphere (by presenting both objects to the same visual field) can be learned quickly in the other hemisphere if the posterior CC (which carries fibers from the temporal cortex) is intact. They also find that an association between objects presented to opposite visual fields (and thus encoded separately in the temporal cortices) can be learned in the absence of an intact posterior CC, but that such learning requires the presence of an intact anterior CC (which carries fibers from the prefrontal cortex). These results suggest that visual memories can be retrieved unilaterally and then integrated in the prefrontal cortex.

ENDOCYTIC COAT ASSEMBLY

In the brain synapses, neurons release hundreds of vesicles containing neurotransmitters each time they are stimulated. This redistribution of membrane from internal vesicles to the neuron surface must be rapidly reversed to allow the vesicle membranes to be reutilized. This membrane recycling process involves rapid endocytosis of synaptic vesicle membranes via clathrin-coated pits and vesicles. Slepnev *et al.* (p. 821) found that the coat components of the clathrin-dependent endocytic machinery from rat brain assembled and disassembled in response to changes in their phosphorylation state. These results suggest that the rise in calcium that triggers synaptic vesicle release triggers dephosphorylation of the endocytic machinery, thus priming it for a wave of activity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 751

The Ecdysone-Inducible Mammalian Expression System.

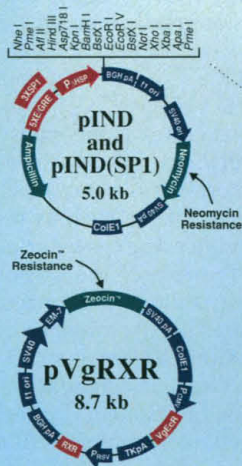
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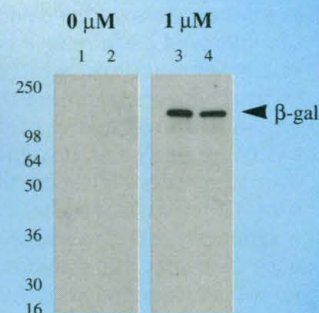
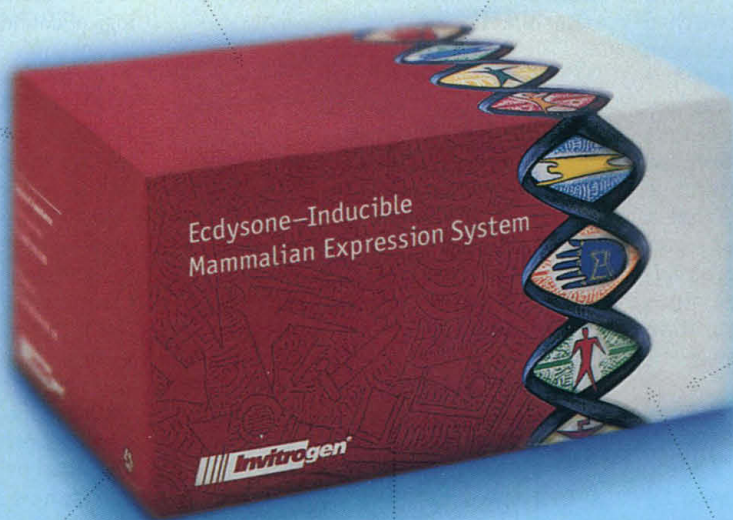
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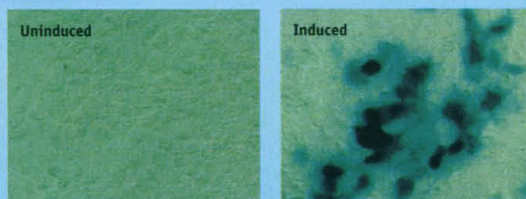


INDUCE WITH PONASTERONE A OR MURISTERONE A

CHO cells stably transfected with *pIND(SP1)/Hygro/lacZ*. Lanes 1 and 2: Uninduced. Lane 3: Induced with Muristerone A. Lane 4: Induced with Ponasterone A.

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 749

ACTING ALONE AND IN GROUPS

Contraction of skeletal muscle in response to neuronal stimulation requires release of calcium from intracellular stores through channels known as ryanodine receptors (RyRs). The RyR1 complex contains four RyR1 subunits and four molecules of the protein FKBP12 (so called because it binds the immunosuppressant drug FK506). RyR1 complexes are opened in response to activated voltage-dependent calcium channels (VDCCs), apparently through direct protein-protein interaction. However, only half of the cell's RyRs appear to be directly associated with VDCCs. Marx *et al.* (p. 818; see the Perspective by Bers and Fill) report that RyR1 channels do not necessarily act independently. Rather, they sometimes undergo synchronous gating (opening and closing). Such coupling of RyR1 channels is promoted by FKBP12 and may explain how an activating signal is spread to those RyRs that are not in contact with VDCCs.

MORE HEAT THAN LIGHT IN SETTING CLOCKS

Circadian clocks help to keep organism metabolism in tune with the changes in light and temperature during the course of the day and through changing seasons. The role of light in entraining the clock has received much more attention than that of temperature. Liu *et al.* (p. 825) now show that ambient temperature can play a greater role in clock resetting than light. Concentrations of key proteins that oscillate during the day-night cycle are interpreted by the organism to indicate different parts of the circadian day depending on the ambient temperature. Shifting the

temperature up or down can shunt the clock forward or backward almost immediately, independent of light conditions, and even against contradictory light-induced signals.

RNA-ACTIVATED TRANSCRIPTION

The genome of red clover necrotic mosaic virus consists of two RNAs called RNA-1 and RNA-2. The viral coat protein is translated from a small subgenomic RNA that is generated from RNA-1 by RNA-dependent transcription. Sit *et al.* (p. 829) show that this transcription is activated by a specific base-pairing interaction between RNA 2 and RNA 1. Trans-activation of transcription thus appears to be yet another example of a cellular function that, although typically performed by proteins, can also be performed by RNA.

A HANDLE ON CELL ADHESION

A mechanism by which the small guanine nucleotide binding proteins Cdc42 and Rac1 may regulate cell-cell adhesion has been demonstrated by Kuroda *et al.* (p. 832). Control of such adhesion mechanisms is important for cellular processes, including pattern formation in development, establishment of cell polarity, and some aspects of tumorigenesis. Rac1 and Cdc42 can inhibit cell adhesion mediated by membrane proteins known as cadherins and associated proteins called catenins. A guanosine triphosphatase-activating protein IQGAP1, which is a target of both Cdc42 and Rac1, appears to bring about the effects of Rac1 and Cdc42 on cadherin-mediated adhesion. IQGAP1 is shown to cause dissociation of α -catenin from cadherin-catenin complexes in vitro and in vivo.

TECHNICAL COMMENT SUMMARIES

Allometric Scaling in Biology

The full text of these comments can be seen at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/281/5378/751a

G. B. West *et al.* (Reports, 4 Apr. 1997, p. 122) discussed "the 3/4 power law for metabolic rates ... characteristic of all organisms," and they proposed "a general model that describes how essential materials are transported through space-filling fractal networks of branching tubes."

H. Kurz and K. Sandau comment that fractal scaling "may not be an unequivocal prerequisite" and that "a nonfractal model" fits the data as well. T. H. Dawson states that assumptions made in the report contradict "basic cardiovascular design and physiological processes of mammals." He presents alternative "scaling laws" for structure and function.

In response, J. H. Brown *et al.* (West and his colleagues) agree with Kurz and Sandau that biological networks "are not perfect fractals" in some respects. In response to Dawson, they state that "empirical measurements" favor the "zeroth-order model" of their report.

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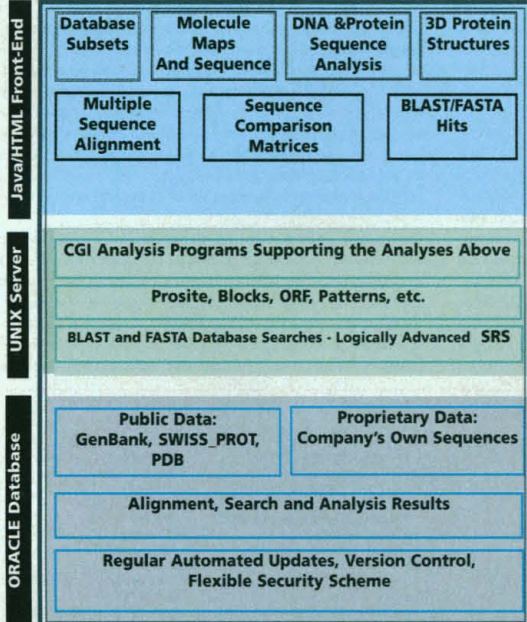
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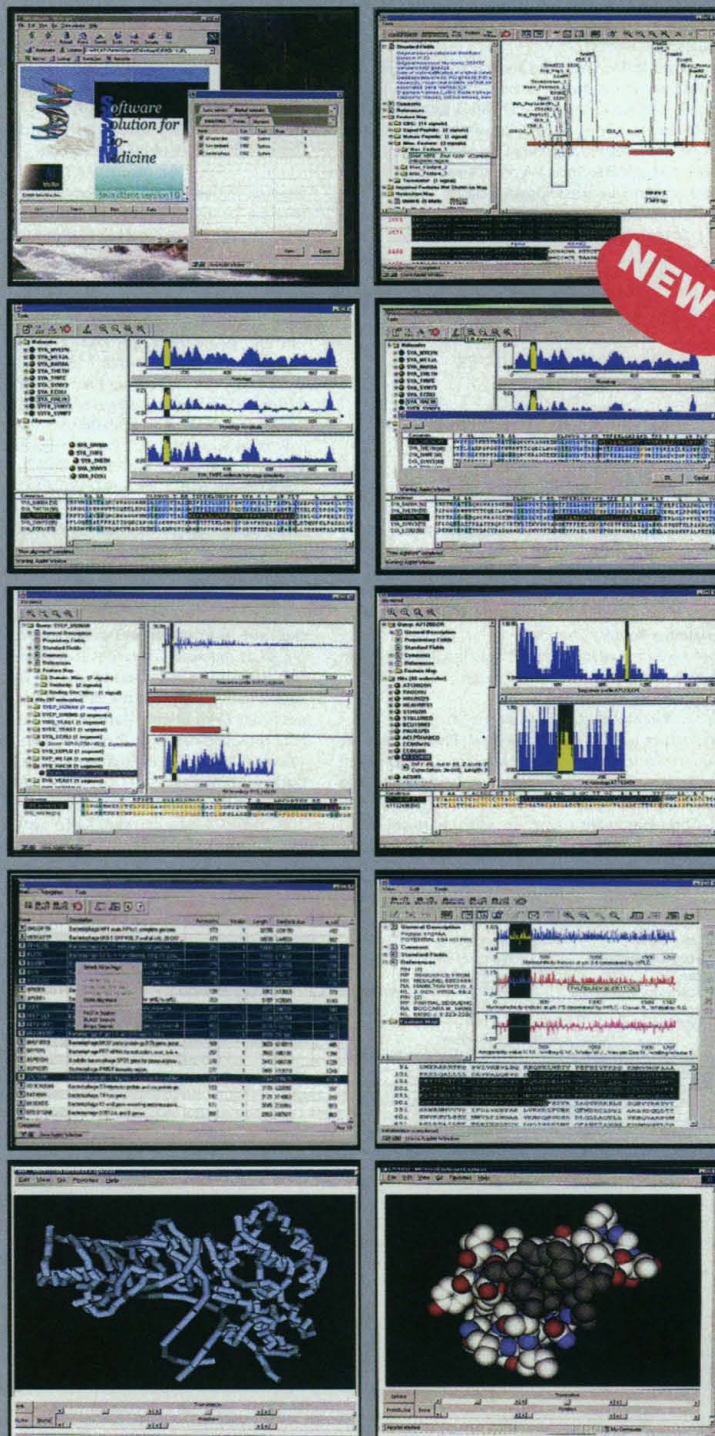
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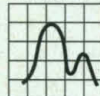
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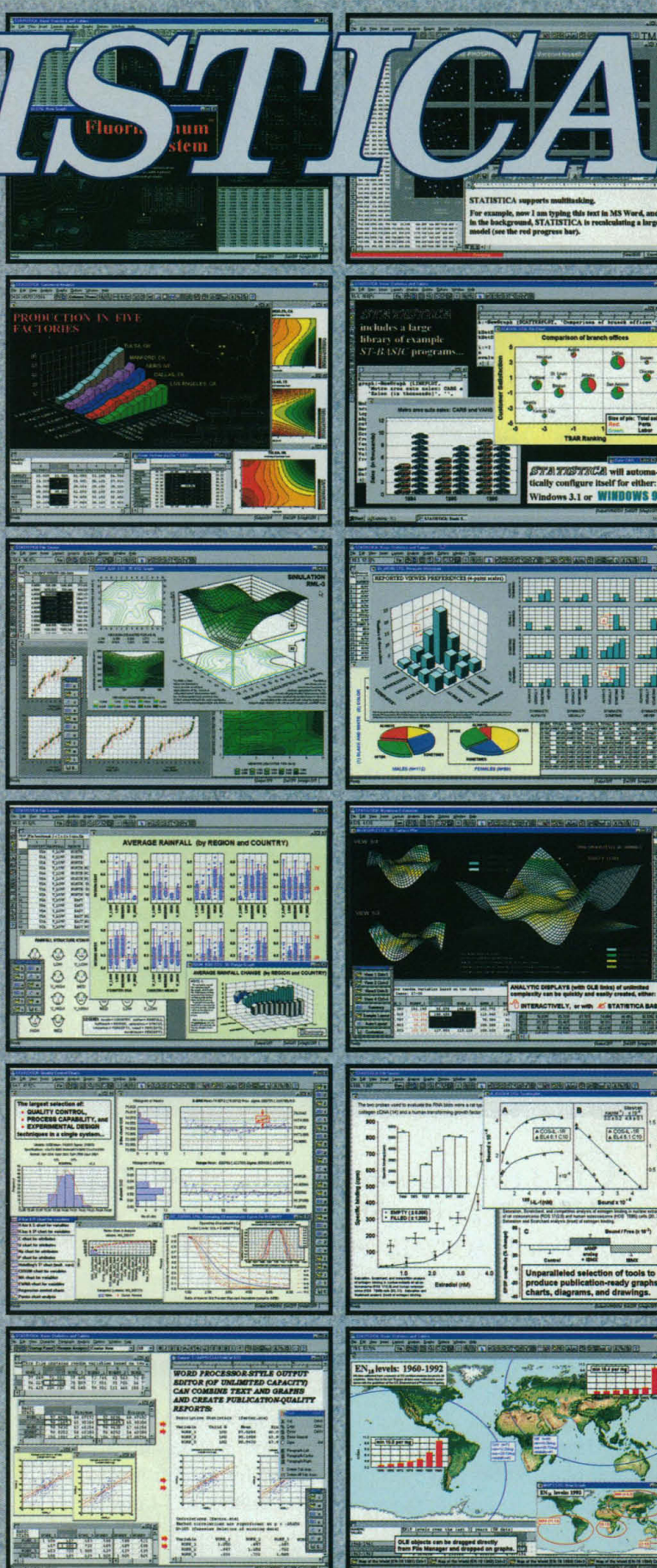


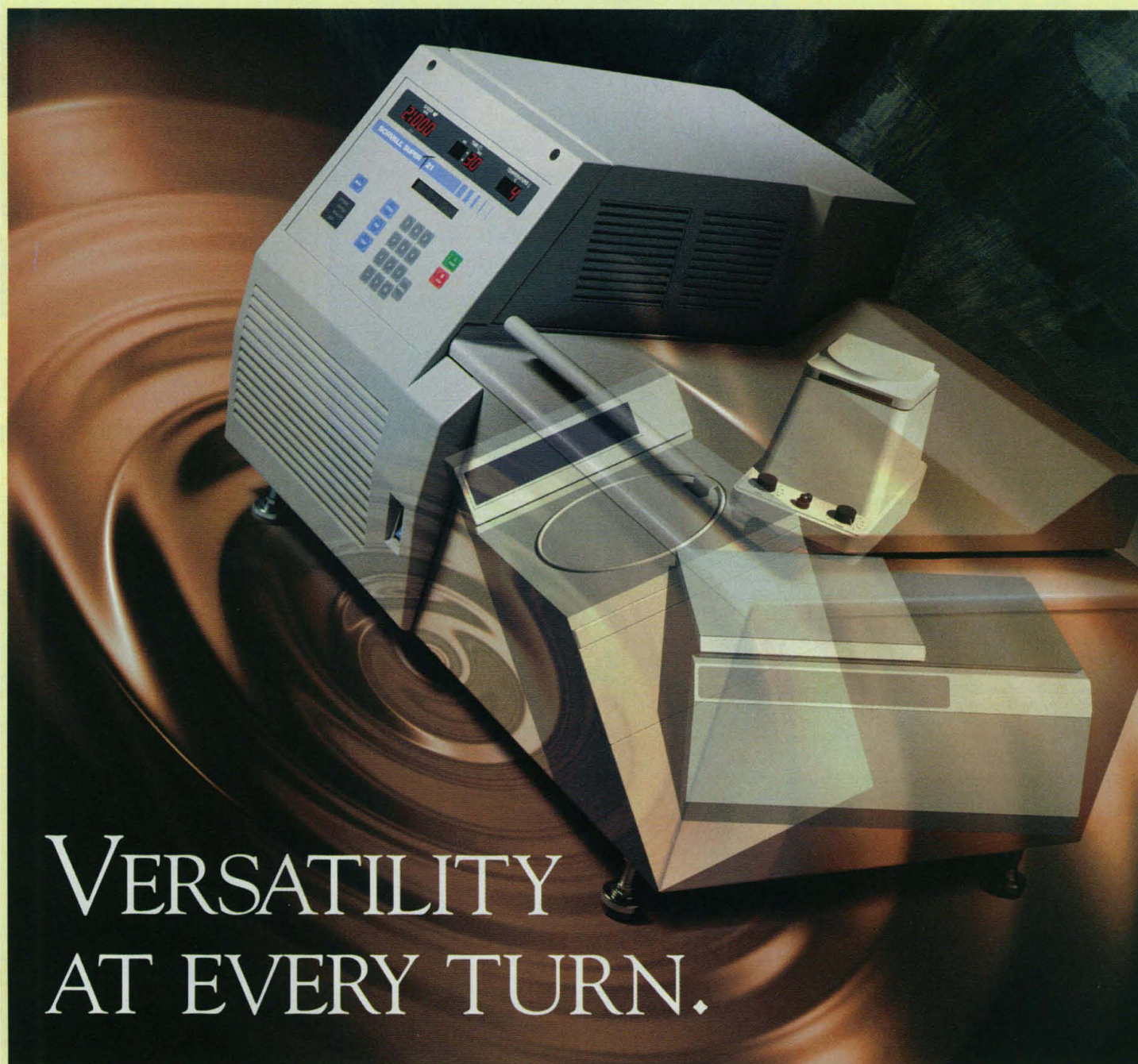
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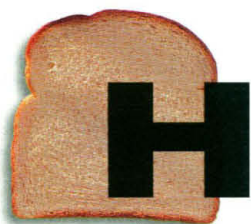
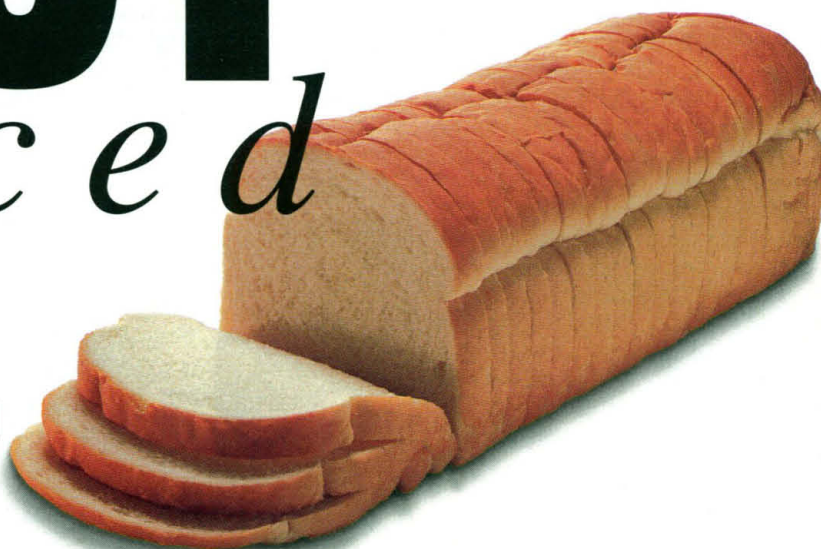
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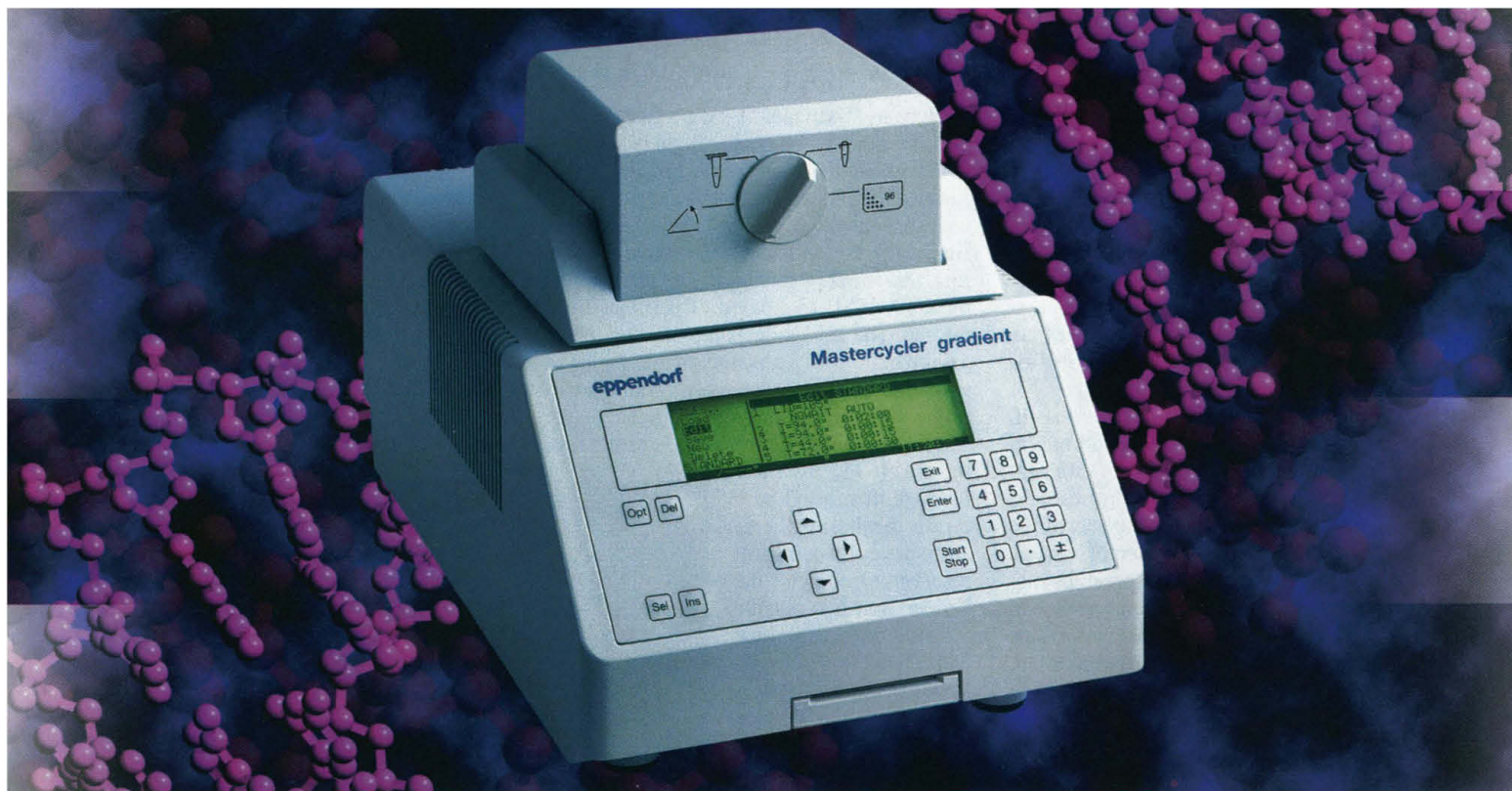
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● Experimental determination of optimal annealing temperature. The calculated primer annealing temperature was 56.5 °C, the actual annealing temperature is 63.5 °C. The ribosomal spacer region of mycoplasmas from H9 cell cultures was amplified.

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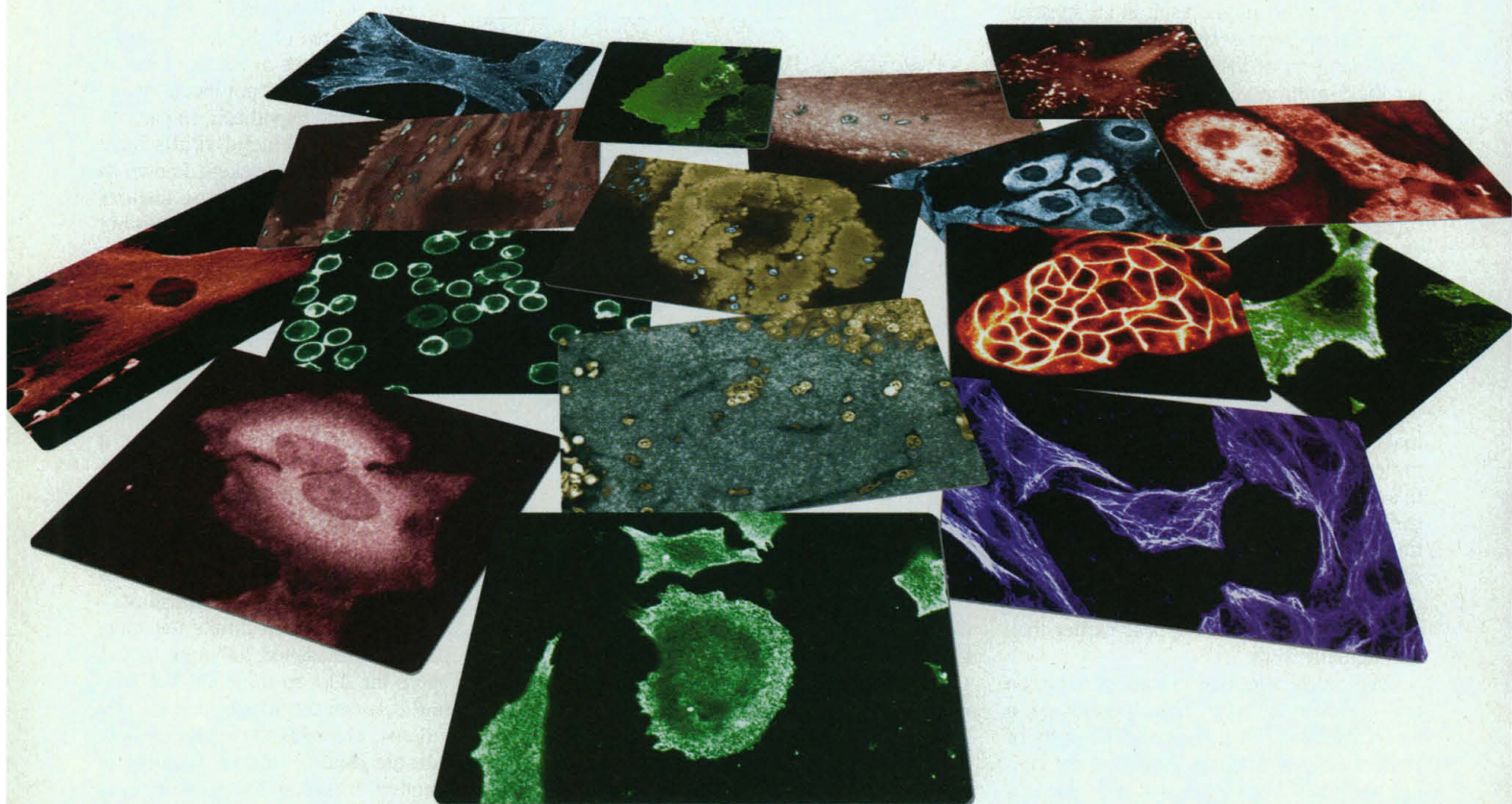
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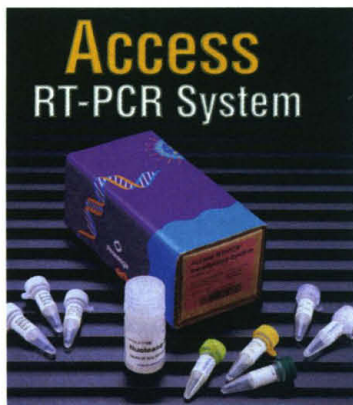
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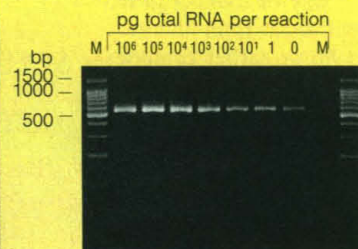
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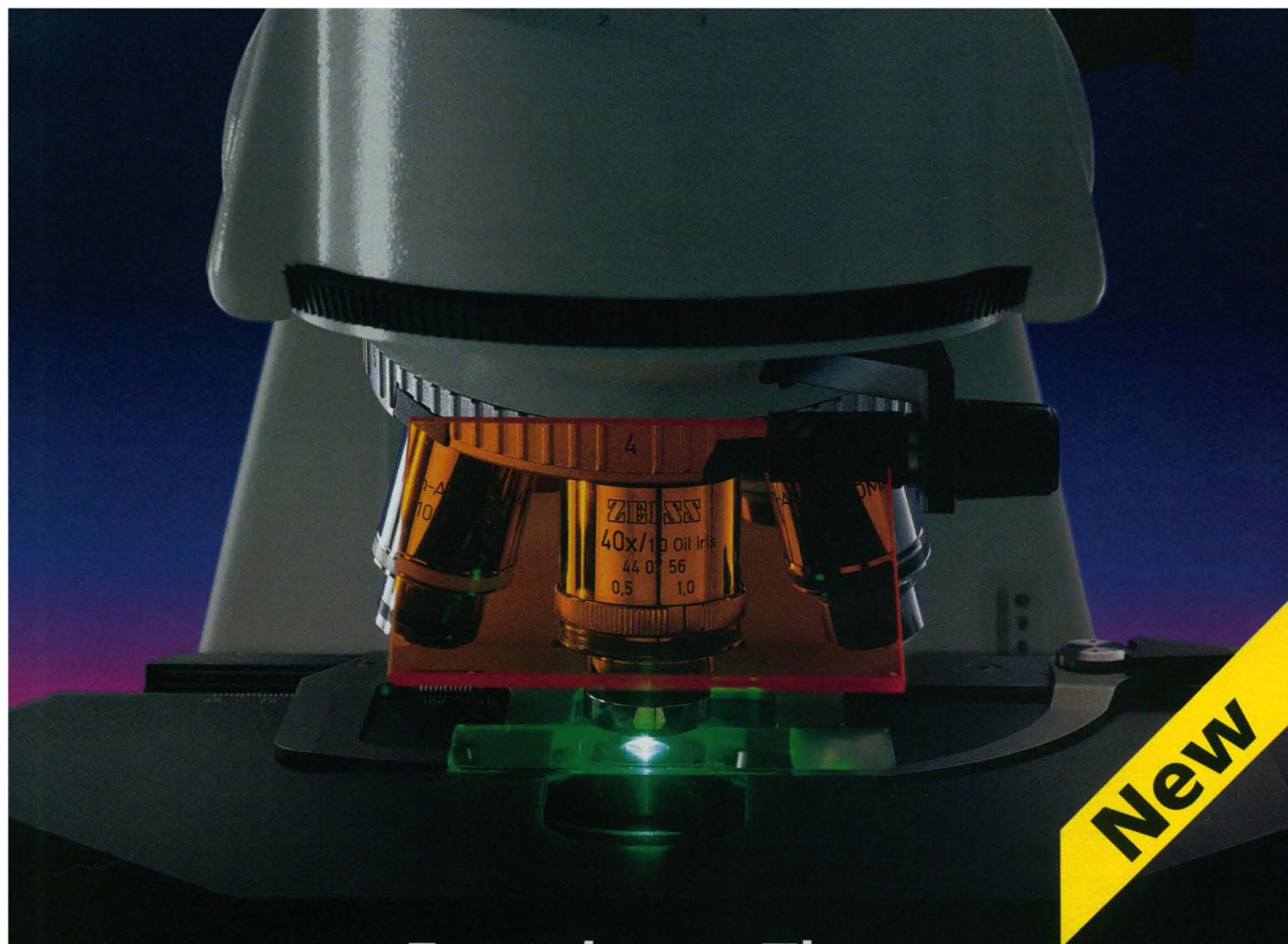
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