

SCIENCE'S COMPASS

away from the east coast by the middle of the 14th century (4). The few dated inland Canterbury sites, such as a small kill site near Lake Coleridge (Wk-6766, 2 σ calibrated age 1305–1434 A.D. on moa bone protein) (5), are consistent with our model (6).

At Italian Creek, two of three calibrated dates have ranges that overlap with the age range predicted by our model described in our report. Those dates cannot falsify the model. The third (NZ-4715) extends only to 1432, within the upper limit allowed by our model.

Furthermore, the burnt moa eggshell was not necessarily associated with human occupation. No moa bone was reported from the site, and unrecognized mixing of natural and archaeological artefacts in such shelters is not unknown. Many rock shelters in New Zealand have natural fossil faunas; many were also moa nest sites (6, 7).

The 25 additional archaeological sites Anderson mentions might have dates for which error ranges reach the 15th century, but most, if not all, have dates that are predominantly within the 14th century. For example, NZA-825 on alkali-treated moa bone collagen (3) from the bottom of the basal layer at Tumbledown Bay (8) is both equivocally associated with the dated occupation

and possibly too young. NZ-7739 from Shag River Mouth, used by Anderson to support late hunting, is from a suite of dates on moa bone collagen previously discarded as being too variable and subject to error (9). From dates on other materials, it was concluded that moa hunting there lasted a few decades in the mid to late 14th century (10).

The spread of possible calendar dates arising from the calibration process precludes inference of a date for the end of moa hunting. Hence, we chose to date the earliest site where moa were not available in the environment, so "capping" the moa hunting period.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Reports: "PAX8-PPAR γ 1 fusion oncogene in human thyroid carcinoma" by T. G. Kroll *et al.* (25 Aug., p. 1357). The title of this report was incorrect when published. Two words in the title, "oncogene" and "in," were mistakenly transposed during the editing process.

News Focus: "Creation's seventh day" by Robert F. Service (14 July, p. 232). The space-filling model of DNA on page 235 and repeated in the Table of Contents (p. 208) was printed incorrectly. It should have depicted a right-handed helix instead of the left-handed one shown.

Random Samples: "Head count" (12 May, p. 959). The affiliation of Jeffrey Lieberman in the accompanying table was incorrect. He is at the University of North Carolina.

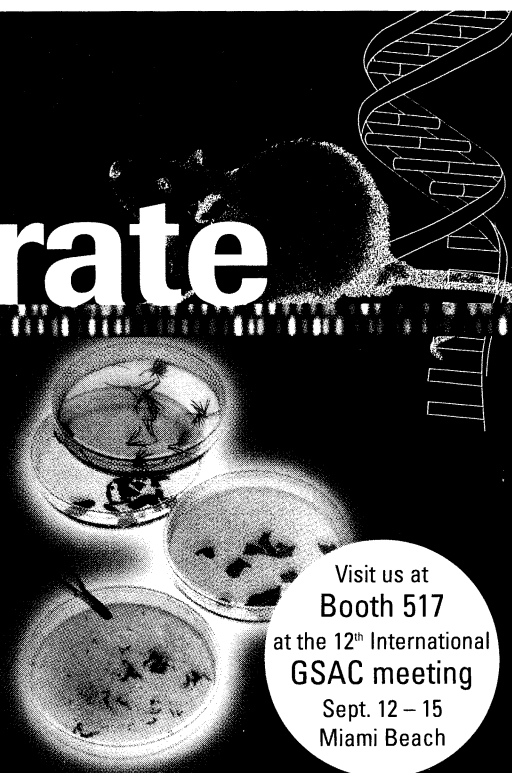
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