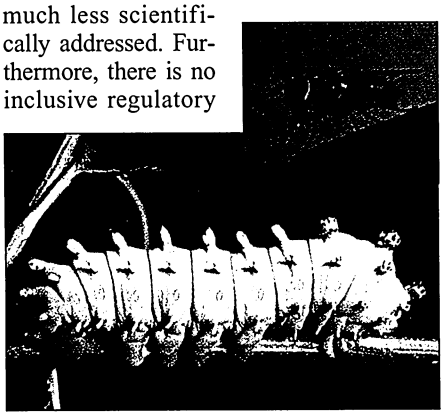
We agree that making such comparisons is crucial, but there can be no such assessment unless safety data related to biological control and other strategies are available. The central point of our argument is that the ecological safety of organisms for the biological control of insects has rarely been considered, much less scientifically addressed. Furthermore, there is no inclusive regulatory requirement for such safety data. We need to move beyond old arguments to scientific and regulatory assessments that judge the most appropriate pest control measure, biological or otherwise. Concern for native species and the environment should weigh heavily in such decisions.



The tachinid fly, *Compsilura concinatta* (top), introduced to North America for gypsy moth biological control, attacks and kills caterpillars of native moths such as the Cecropia moth, *Hyalophora cecropia* (bottom) (*1*).

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1. G. H. Boettner, *Conserv. Biol.*, in press.

Ritalin Tests for Preschoolers

Eliot Marshall's News Focus article "Planned Ritalin trial for tots heads into uncharted waters" (17 Nov., p. 1280) describes a clinical trial that begins in December 2000, the Preschool ADHD Treatment Study, that will assess the efficacy and safety of methylphenidate (Ritalin) on children 3 to 6 years old. Although the article provides a good description of the background of the study and its overall design, it contains an inaccurate statement regarding methylphenidate dosing used in the initial stages of the study that could cause concern on the part of families who might participate. Marshall mentions that "only very low doses of [methylphenidate] will be used in the initial stage—so low that a planning memo calls the level 'homeopathic.'" This statement is incorrect, for it suggests that all the dose levels would "have no effect." As strongly recommended by the National Institute of Mental Health's Data Safety and Monitoring Board, only one of the four methylphenidate doses used in the initial stage will be very low—so low that the authors of two previous studies would consider it "homeopathic." This will allow us to test whether this single very low dose might work better in a preschool child.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

News Focus: "In search of biological weirdness" (10 Nov., p. 1077). Bdelloid rotifers were mistakenly described as being single celled.

News of the Week: "New site suggests Anasazi exodus" (3 Nov., p. 914). On the map accompanying the article, the state of Utah is incorrectly marked as Nevada.