themselves in this manner, coral hybrids need not invent new developmental machinery to persist without sexual reproduction.

Clearly, the evolutionary scenario in which interspecific hybrids become secondarily clonal, either parthenogenetically or vegetatively, has played out numerous times in a diversity of organisms. Because they are endowed with the genomes of their parent species fixed in a hybrid state, the future of these clones is dim and their existence transient. Thus, they are genetic lines with no past and no future beyond that afforded a temporary winner in the ecological lottery. Because these hybrid clones make a virtually instantaneous jump to open ecological niches—in effect side-stepping the usually long process of speciation—their real evolutionary potential is to provide us with a window into processes of ecological diversification, highlighting the open niches that remain to be explored by their bisexual relatives.

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References

1. G. Bell, *Masterpiece of Nature* (Univ. of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 1982).
2. R. C. Vrihenhoek, in *Population Biology and Evolution*, K. Wohrmann, V. Loeschcke, Eds. (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1984), pp. 217–231.

Industry-Government Collaboration

DAN FERBER'S ARTICLE "NIEHS TOXICOLOgist receives a 'gag order'" (News of the Week, 9 August, p. 915) refers to a $4-million research collaboration between the National Institute of Enviromental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the chemical industry, but does not explain the rigorous standards and procedures that guide this vital industry-government research collaboration. This funding partnership will accelerate scientific research into a crucial public health issue, the potential impact of chemicals on human reproduction and early development, while preserving the independence necessary to ensure the credibility of this joint effort.

Under this collaborative program, the American Chemistry Council's (ACC's) Long-Range Research Initiative (LRI) is providing $1 million and NIEHS is providing $3 million to stimulate independent research on developmental toxicants using state-of-the-art tools (e.g., genomics and novel model organisms). ACC and NIEHS collaboratively developed the published program's scientific aims and goals, drawing from the findings of a comprehensive review by the National Academies (*1*). This collaboration was conducted under Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service (PHS) and NIH policies, rules, and regulations for sponsored research, which clearly define and limit the role of the ACC. Only NIEHS staff reviewed all applications to determine if they responded to the program's intent. NIEHS staff were solely responsible for organizing and conducting an independent peer review, as well as for making final decisions on membership of the peer review panel. The peer-review was conducted in accordance with PHS and NIH policies and regulations for NIH extramural advisory peer review activities. After the independent NIH peer-review, NIEHS constructed a funding plan for applications, without deviation from the merit roster order as determined by the independent NIH peer-review process. In all cases, the research will be conducted according to typical NIH guidelines of independence, including the responsibility of the investigator to submit the results to respected journals for publication—without any oversight or comment from ACC or NIEHS. The LRI has similar guidelines.

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Reference

1. Committee on Developmental Toxicology, Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, National Research Council, *Scientific Frontiers in Developmental Toxicity and Risk Assessment* (National Academies Press, Washington, DC, 2000)

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "California astronomers eye 30-meter scope" by R. Irion (8 Nov., p. 1151). The right-hand label in the accompanying figure should read "Keck," not "VLT."

NEWS FOCUS: "Bracing for the shocks of the future" by K. Brown (8 Nov., p. 1161). GeoHazards International has received a $1.5 million grant from USAID, not $15 million, as stated in the article.

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE: "And in Brevia..." (1 Nov., p. 919). In the third line, "30% of all plant species" should instead read "22 to 47% of all plant species."

NETWATCH: "The happy cadaver" (25 Oct., p. 709). The anatomist Andreas Vesalius was not Italian, but Flemish.

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "Survey confirms coral reefs are in peril" by E. Pennisi (6 Sept., p. 1622). The caption beneath the photograph on p. 1623 had misidentified a fish as a Nassau grouper. The probable species is a saddleback grouper.