American Association for the Advancement of Science

# Science

18 JANUARY 1991 Vol. 251 🛛 Pages 241–348

## Southerns/Northerns: Electrophoresis, Blotting, and Crosslinking in 2.5 Hours Instead of 30.

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The VAGE<sup>™</sup> vertical agarose/acrylamide gel electrophoresis system allows the casting of agarose or acrylamide gels in the unit. Nucleic acids can be electrophoresed through a 3 mm, 0.8% vertical agarose gel in less than two hours with excellent resolution (Figure 1).

Because the gels are thin, staining, depurination, and denaturation can be accomplished in 15 minutes.



#### FIGURE 1:

Figure Legend: Fractionation of end labeled DNA markers on 3mm thick  $0.8\,\%\,$  agarose by the VAGE apparatus and transfer to Duralon—UVTM mem-A. Ethidium stained gel showing high

#### STRATAGENE METHOD—TIME 2.5 HOURS 15 MIN\_15 MIN\_30 SECONDS 2 HOURS



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#### PosiBlot<sup>™</sup> Pressure Blotter



#### FIGURE 2:

Figure Lengend: <sup>32</sup>P end-labeled lambda Hind III markers were electrophoresed in 0.8% agarose. The DNA was then transferred to a nylon membrane with a vacuum blotter at 30mm Hg below atmospheric or with the PosiBlot pressure blotter at 100mm Hg above atmospheric. Both transfers were carried out for 15 minutes. As can be seen, pressure blotting transferred significantly more DNA in the same period of time, especially in the higher molecular weight range (largest band is 23 kilobases).

The PosiBlot<sup>TM</sup> positive pressure blotter permits the transfer of nucleic acids in 1/3 the time of vacuum blotters and 1/50 the time of capillary blotting (Figure 2). Pressure blotting does not dehydrate gels as do other methods. This allows the use of substantially higher

FIGURE 3:



#### pressure differentials, compared with vacuum blotting, without gel collapse. The PosiBlot apparatus reduces blotting time to 15 minutes.

Figure Legend: Autoradiogram showing

the resolution of 2.8 and 1.3 Kb Msp I RFLP alleles revealed by a cystic fibrosis human DNA probe using the VAGE, PosiBlot and Stratalinker all in 2.5 hours

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COVER Lakes and ponds on the arctic tundra with Itigaknit Mountain in the background, North Slope, Alaska. These aquatic ecosystems are continuously releasing carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Much of the carbon originates in terrestrial environments, and accounting for this release substantially lowers the estimate of the worldwide arctic sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide. See page 298. [Photograph by George W. Kling]

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#### **Peruvian cotton economy**

T L Paraíso was a large Preceramic settlement in Peru that was inhabited between 1800 and 1500 B.C. Recent excavations of refuse deposits indicate that this settlement may have been an important cotton-growing center (page 277). El Paraíso is situated in a valley bottom along the coast, an ideal location for the cultivation of cotton. Quilter et al. propose that the inhabitants of El Paraíso may have traded cotton and its products for other goods with people in nearby coastal and highland communities. Cotton is prized at coastal settlements where it is used for fishing nets and lines; it is also important in the manufacture of textiles, which were prestige commodities in Andean civilizations. The excavations showed that the diets of the inhabitants of El Paraíso were rich in gathered foods-seafood (anchovies, mussels, clams) and wild vegetables and fruitsand that only a small number of food crops were cultivated. Although the inhabitants of this community were knowledgeable about agricultural techniques, they appear to have concentrated their energy raising cotton (but not food) and building a monumental settlement.

#### New microporous materials

OLECULAR sieves based on sulfides may have a number of Lexceptional properties when compared with zeolites and related materials that contain oxygen; for example, the sulfide-based sieves may provide more stable platforms onto which semiconducting sulfide guests can be absorbed. The synthesis and chemical and physical characterization of antimony sulfide frameworks are described by Parise (page 293). Slurries of Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> and  $(CH_3)_4$ N·SH, the latter acting as a template, were heated in the presence of organic cations. Crystallographic analyses showed assembly of the starting materials into a system of channels; the building blocks of the channels were

18 JANUARY 1991

flat s-shaped buckled sheets of  $Sb_2S_2$ ring units joined at the edges. Building blocks of this type have not been found in silicate- and phosphate-based materials. Variations of these antimony sulfide frameworks probably can be made if other cations and other templates are used in the reaction mixtures; the materials should have applications as molecular sieves, sorbents, catalytic surfaces, and ion exchangers.

#### **Tundra carbon budgets**

HE arctic is a smaller sink for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than it was previously thought to be: the earlier estimates of the size of this sink may be about 20% too high. The new estimates are based on years of measurements of CO2 concentrations and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from North Slope Alaskan lakes and rivers to the atmosphere (page 298). Kling et al. found that CO<sub>2</sub> is continuously released from these Alaskan aquatic ecosystems, which apparently act as conduits for terrestrial gases. The carbon they release comes from dissolved organic carbon in tundra, inorganic carbon in ground water, and erosion of peat. Alterations in the size of the sink as well as other effects of aquatic ecosystems must be considered if accurate projections are to be made of how the global carbon budget could change in the future as a result of climate and land use changes.

## Perception of song bird songs

N response to the song of a male of her species, a female roller canary will thrust her breast forward, raise her tail, and vibrate her outstretched wings to indicate a readiness for mating. Although this response is usually made only to the songs of conspecific males, the female roller canary was found to react in the same way to the songs of males outside her species if lesions were made in a portion of the caudal nucleus of the ventral hyperstriatum (HVc) of her brain (page 303). The HVc of male canaries is part of the network of brain nuclei that is essential for song production; because female canaries do not sing normally, the role of the HVc in females has been unclear. Brenowitz shows that the HVc plays a role in the perception of songs by females and in discrimination of songs of conspecific males from those of other males, in this case, the white-crowned sparrow. The HVc lesions did not in any way alter the character of the solicitation display made by the female in response to songs. The development of song perception in female canaries may be markedly different from its development in males; according to the motor theory of song perception, the male canary may only be able to perceive sounds after he is able to produce them.

#### Concerted evolution in multi-gene families

▼HAT molecular mechanism causes multi-gene families to lose their heterogeneity as they evolve? This drive toward homogeneity, called concerted evolution, has been observed in genes of both individuals and populations. Hillis et al. studied the concerted evolution of the tandemly repeated ribosomal genes of parthenogenetic lizards of the Heteronotia binoei complex, a complex that also includes sexual species (page 308). The parthenogens formed from hybridization events between two species of sexual ancestors; backcrossed individuals were triploid, having received one haploid set of chromosomes from one ancestor and two sets from the other. Although the parthenogens had three sets of ribosomal genes, many were found to have three sets of only one of the ancestral types. Thus, biased gene conversion had been operating to switch the genes to the dominant form. At least with regard to their ribosomal genes, the parthenogens do not have a "permanent hybrid" genome; instead their genome continues to evolve in a concerted fashion. ■ RUTH LEVY GUYER

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Program

Organized by Katrina L. Kelner (Science magazine)

#### StimulusTranscription Coupling in Neuronal Cells

(Saturday, 16 February, 8:30 am)

Inducible Proto-Oncogenes in the Nervous System —James I. Morgan (*Roche Institute*); Regulation of Neuronal Gene Expression by Depolarization —Michael Greenberg (*Harvard*); Pleasure, Pain, and Proto-oncogenes —Michael J. Iadarola (*NIDR*, *NIH*); NGF Induces Transcription of Genes Encoding Zinc-Finger Proteins —Jeffrey Milbrandt (*Washington Univ., St. Louis*)

#### **Plenary Lecture**

#### (Saturday, 16 February, 1:00 pm)

Molecular Insights into the Function of Neurotransmitter Receptors and Ionic Channels —Shosaku Numa (Kyoto Univ., Japan)

## Structure and Function of Potassium Channels

(Saturday, 16 February, 2:30 pm) A Minimalist Potassium Channel —Arthur M. Brown (Baylor College); Molecular Studies of Voltage-gated Potassium Channels —Lily Y. Jan (UC-San Francisco); Structure-Function Correlations in a Family of Rat Brain Potassium Channels —Walter Stuhmer (Max Planck Inst.); Biophysical and Molecular Mechanisms of Potassium Channel Gating —Richard W. Aldrich (Stanford)

#### **Olfaction and Taste**

#### (Sunday, 17 February, 8:30 am)

From Ions and Molecules to Perception and Cognition —Gordon M. Shepherd (*Yale*); Molecular Mechanisms of Transduction in Olfaction: A Model for Receptor-Ligand Signaling Systems —Stuart Firestein (*Yale*); Long-term Potentiation and Serial Memory Processing in the Olfactory Hippocampal Circuit —Gary S. Lynch (*UC-Irvine*); The Initial Events in Taste Transduction —Stephen D. Roper (*Colorado State*); Sensory Coding of Gustatory Information —David V. Smith (*Univ. of Cincinnati*)

#### Activity-dependent Plasticity in Development and Learning

(Sunday, 17 February, 2:30 pm) Long-term Potentiation: A Cellular Model for Learning —Roger A. Nicoll (*UC-San Francisco*); Mechanisms for Use-dependent Synaptic Plasticity in the Developing and Mature Visual Cortex —Wolf Singer (*Max Planck Inst.*); Regulation of Synapse Stabilization by Regulation of a Receptor System —Martha Constantine-Paton (*Yale*); Spontaneous Activity and the Patterning of Connections in Fetal Development —Carla J. Shatz (*Stanford*)

#### **Cognitive Processes**

(Monday, 18 February, 8:30 am)

Memory: Brain Systems and Cognition —Larry Squire (Veterans Admin. Med. Ctr., San Diego); Attentional Control of Visual Perception: Cortical and Subcortical Mechanisms —Robert Desimone (NIMH, NIH); Components of Highlevel Vision: A Cognitive Neuroscience Analysis —Stephen Kosslyn (Harvard); Neural Circuits That Mediate Perceptual Judgments of Motion Direction —William T. Newsome III (Stanford)

#### Molecular Basis of Neurological Disease

(Monday, 18 February, 2:30 pm)

Molecular Genetic Approaches to Identification of Mutant Genes in Neurological Disorders —Joseph B. Martin (UC-San Francisco); Molecular Genetics of Hereditary Retinal Disease: Retinoblastoma —Thaddeus P. Dryja (Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary); Neuronal Polarity and Microtubule System: A Target of Alzheimer's Pathology —Kenneth Kosik (Brigham and Women's Hosp.); Molecular Biology and Genetics of Prions Causing Neurodegeneration —Stanley B. Prusiner (UC-San Francisco)

#### **Poster Session**

(Date and time to be announced)

#### Adjournment

(Monday, 18 February, 5:30pm)

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For complete details and a registration form, see the 19 October 1990 issue of *Science* magazine, or write to the AAAS Meeting Promotion Dept., 1333 H Street, NW, Room 815, Washington, DC 20005 (Phone: 202-326-6462; FAX: 202-289-4021).

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