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Drawing of the Ulysses spacecraft as it left Jupiter traveling southward in the previously unexplored dusk sector, showing the large lo plasma torus (yellow ring) and a small auroral oval (violet). In February 1992, Ulysses flew past Jupiter to take advantage of the gravity assist that redirected it toward the sun's polar

regions. The scientific results obtained during this encounter with Jupiter are presented in a series of reports beginning on page 1503; see also the Perspective on page 1487 and the News story on page 1478. [Illustration: Jet Propulsion Laboratory]



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SCIENCE (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in Decen ber, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1991 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): \$82 (\$50 allocated to subscription). Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$150. Foreign postage extra: Canada \$46, other (surface mail) \$46, air freight \$90. First class, airmail, school-year, and student rates on request. Canadian GST Number: 125488122. Change of address: allow 6 weeks, giving old and new addresses and 11-digit account number. Postmast Send change of address to Science, P.O. Box 1723, Riverton, NJ 08077, Single copy sales: \$6.00 per issue prepaid includes surface postage; Guide to Biotechnology Products and Instruments, \$20.

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Introns as failed exons?

In eukaryotic organisms, genes are arranged into exons and introns; the messenger RNA from exons encode amino acids, whereas the mRNA from introns is skipped in protein synthesis through splicing. In a Perspective, Seidel et al. (p. 1489) argue re originally "mithat exon at coded for short crogenes" peptide sequences, which then assembled as multimers to form proteins. Proximity of these gene sequences along a stretch of DNA would have improved the chances of encoding all of the peptides needed to form a functional protein. However, if the stop codons mutated and were then read through, two peptides could link up through a continuous chain. Thus, the consensus sequence at the end of exons (...AG) may result from mutation of the codon that stops protein synthesis, TAG, and the similar consensus code at the end of introns may indicate that they are exons that ceased to be essential for making a functional protein.

5

Tracing traps

Carnivorous plants show a diversity of specialized forms to catch their prey and then digest them. Attempts at understanding their evolution and specialization trace back to the work of Darwin. Albert et al. (p. 1491) review the development of these ideas and then present sequence analyses of the gene encoding the large subunit of ribulose-1, 5-bisphosphate carboxylase/ oxygenase (RuBisCO) for carnivorous plants to address the phylogenetic patterns. Carnivorous plants apparently originated from various lineages of angiosperms. For example, flypaper traps seem to have five separate origins but also appear in lineages with all other trap forms.

Ulysses at Jupiter

On its way to study the sun, the Ulysses spacecraft took advantage of Jupiter's gravity to steer the proper course. This brief side trip afforded the best opportunity since the Voyager missions of the 1970s to collect data on the rich plasma environment that pervades the Jovian system (pp. 1503 to 1557). Jons, mostly sulfur and oxygen, are emitted from Io to form a large plasma torus along its orbit. Unlike Voyager, Ulysses was able to penetrate the torus and probe its properties. Observations from ground-based instruments and the Hubble Space Telescope were also made during the flyby that help fill in the picture. Among the new results is the observation that very narrow beams of ions and electrons are streaming along Jupiter's magnetic field; energetic bursts of field-aligned protons were also discovered. Past missions have shown Jupiter's magnetosphere to be a dynamic object; it can expand or contract like a balloon, depending on the pressure of the solar wind. Ulysses found that during the flyby, the magnetosphere had inflated to a size greater than that seen during Voyager. Also, a number of plasma wave modes, both old and new, were seen by Ulysses' radio antennas. The radio signals showed the plasma torus to be patchier than originally thought. Ulysses also found Jupiter's environs to be relatively dust-free, owing to the intense charged particle fluxes. An overview of the encounter is given by Smith *et al.* (p. 1503), and a summary of the findings is provided in the Perspective by Barbosa and Kivelson (p. 1487) and an outline of the future of the Ulysses mission is given by Appenzeller (news story on p. 1478).

Potential differences in protein folding

Many cellular functions are performed in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), including certain steps in steroid biosynthesis and production of transmembrane and secreted proteins. Hwang et al. (p. 1496) show that the electrochemical or redox environment within the ER is relatively oxidizing compared with the cytoplasm, and that glutathione acts as the principal redox buffer. The redox potential is reflected in the relative ratio of reduced glutathione to glutathione disulfide. The peptide N-Acetyl-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Cys-NH₂ (NYTC) was used to probe the redox state of the ER; it undergoes glycosylation in the ER and becomes trapped. The redox state of its Cys residue then acts as a reporter. The more oxidizing environment of the ER may accelerate the

proper folding of proteins with disulfide linkages.

Moving account

Microtubules serve a variety of functions as subcellular components-they are intrinsic to cilia and flagella, which control cell motility. Microtubules also act within the cell as the network along which subcellular vesicles are transported. Smith and Sale (p. 1557) studied flagella of the single-celled motile alga Chlamydomonas in order to understand how the activity of microtubules is regulated. Analysis of both wildtype and mutant flagellar extracts in an in vitro assay of microtubule sliding indicates that the radial spokes of the flagellar axoneme activate the dynein adenosine triphosphatase of the inner arms.

Paying attention and perceiving motion

In a series of visual perception experiments, Cavanagh (p. 1563) has shown that the perception of motion can occur in two different ways. Observers judged the velocity of oppositely rotating gratings, in which a color grating masked a luminescence grating that could be varied in contrast. Although the individual bars of the luminescence grating could not be seen, its direction of motion could be perceived when the observer attended to the grating. In another experiment, the rotating color grating, which appears to move more slowly than its true velocity at low contrast, appeared to speed up when individual bars on the wheel could be tracked. This attention-based motion detection appears to operate in addition to the familiar lowlevel system that we usually use in order to see movement.

Pictures past and present

Like many other inventions, the practical value of the daguerreotype for recording images was not lost on the scientists of the last century. Hackmann (p. 1569) reviews The Daguerreotype. Nineteenth-Century Technology and Modern Science, by Barger and White and discusses the history and science of this method that allowed light-sensitive silver nitrate images to be "fixed." The daguerreotype found use in naturalist and anthropological studies and was also used to record astronomical images and to map geological formations. Its detection capabilities for ultraviolet light opened up new areas of spectroscopy. Also discussed are how these images are formed and what can be done to preserve and restore them.

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