

in themselves. We are not persuaded that experimental tests should have precedence, and believe that if outcomes of short-term experimental (5, 6) and theoretical studies do not concur with patterns and processes observed in nature (1 and our report), then it is the experiments and theory that should be queried.

David A. Wardle
Landcare Research,
Post Office Box 69,
Lincoln 8152, New Zealand
Olle Zackrisson
Greger Hörrnberg
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences,
S901-83 Umeå, Sweden
Christiane Gallet
Université de Savoie,
F-73376 Le Bourget-du-Lac Cedex, France

References

1. M. M. Al Mufti, C. L. Sydes, S. B. Furness, J. P. Grime, S. R. Band, *J. Ecol.* **65**, 759 (1977); J. P. Grime, *Plant Strategies and Vegetation Processes* (Wiley, Chichester, UK, 1979); G. M. Rusch and M. Oesterheld, *Oikos* **78**, 519 (1997).
2. K. Chapman, J. B. Whittaker, O. W. Heal, *Agric. Ecosyst. Environ.* **24**, 33 (1988); D. A. Wardle, K. I. Bonner, K. S. Nicholson, *Oikos* **79**, 247 (1997).
3. J. H. C. Cornelissen and K. Thompson, *New Phytol.* **135**, 109 (1997); D. A. Wardle, G. M. Barker, K. I. Bonner, K. S. Nicholson, *J. Ecol.*, in press.
4. D. U. Hooper and P. M. Vitousek, *Science* **277**, 1302 (1997); D. Tilman, J. Knops, D. Wedin, P. Reich, M. Ritchie, E. Siemann, *ibid.*, p. 1300.
5. D. Tilman, D. Wedin, J. Knops, *Nature* **379**, 718 (1996).
6. S. Naeem, L. J. Thompson, S. P. Lawler, J. H. Lawton, R. M. Woodfin, *ibid.* **368**, 734 (1994).
7. S. Naeem, K. Håkenson, J. H. Lawton, M. J. Crawley, L. J. Thompson, *Oikos* **76**, 259 (1996).
8. M. A. Huston, *Oecologia* **110**, 449 (1997).

Corrections and Clarifications

In the Perspective "Do continents part passively, or do they need a shove?" by R. W. Carlson (10 Oct., p. 240), figure 1, with a caption reading, "Flood basalt. A 2-km-thick section of the Columbia River basalts in the Grande Ronde River valley of eastern Washington," is in fact a view of the Kiger River Gorge in the northern part of Steens Mountain in south-eastern Oregon.

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.

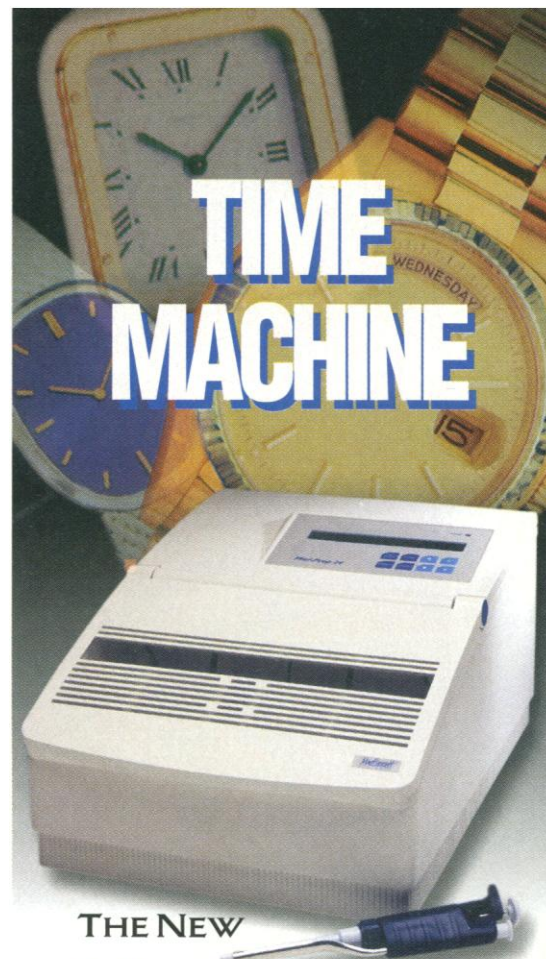
SCIENCE

Note to Readers about Technical Comments

Beginning in 1998, summaries of technical comments will appear in the printed journal; full text and figures will appear only online.

This change will allow:

- **Free access** to the full text of technical comments and responses for all Science Online readers.
- **Quicker publication** of reviewed comments, criticisms, and responses.
- **Linkage between reports and comments**, which would notify readers that subsequent comments were published about a report (or article) in *Science*.
- **More comprehensive figures and tables** in the comments and more detailed discussion of methods and instrumentation.
- **Up-front coverage** in summaries of the comments and responses, which will appear in "This Week in Science" in the printed journal, with Web addresses for the full texts.
- **Continued full citation**, with technical comment titles and authors continuing to be listed in the printed Table of Contents, and authors continuing to be cited in the quarterly online index.



THE NEW MINI-PREP 24

FOR AUTOMATED PLASMID MINI-PREPS

- **Fast**—up to 24 preps per hr, saving you valuable time.
- **High Purity**—sufficient for automated fluorescent and manual sequencing.
- **Easy Operation**—begin prep with direct loading of bacterial culture. No centrifugation step saves you time.
- **Consistent Results**—up to 6 µg of plasmid per ml. Quality DNA ... time and time again.

Call now to learn how the New Improved Mini-Prep 24 can give you quality DNA and save time by automating your plasmid DNA preps!

1-800-466-7949

MACCONNELL
RESEARCH

11339 Sorrento Valley Road
San Diego, CA 92121
(619) 452-2603 • Fax (619) 452-6753
www.macconnell.com
Circle No. 29 on Readers' Service Card