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SCIENCE

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104

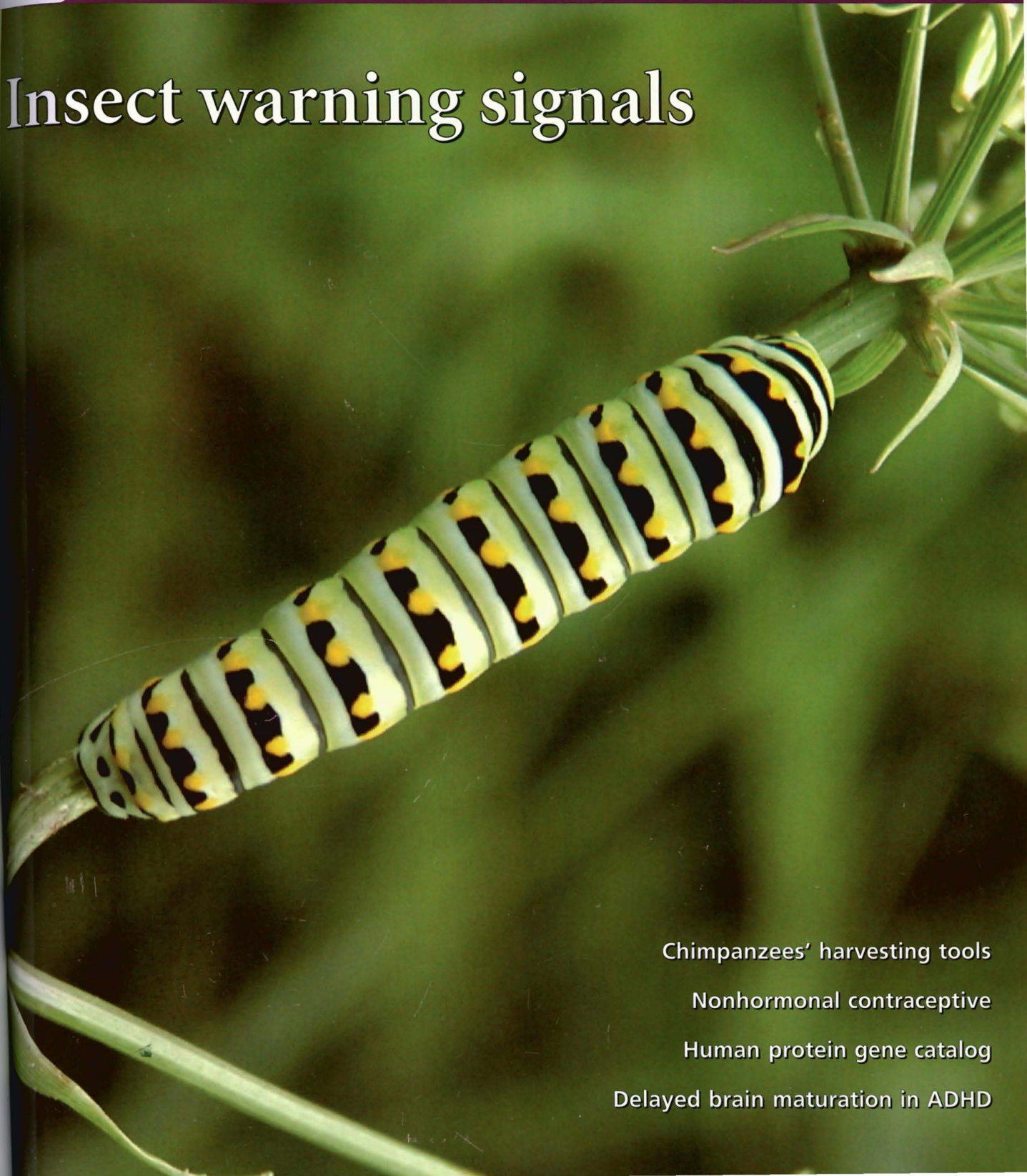
49

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Cover image: The larvae of the black swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*) are noxious to predators. In a global phylogenetic study, Prudic *et al.* find larval warning color patterns are more likely to evolve when larvae develop on small-leaved host plants, not large-leaved ones. This evolution occurs independently of larval chemical defense, obtained from the plants. Visual background thus plays an important role in the evolution of insect warning coloration. See the article on pages 19381–19386. Photo courtesy of Jeffrey C. Oliver.

From the Cover

- 19381 Insect warning signals
- 19210 Chimpanzees' harvesting tools
- 19357 Nonhormonal contraceptive
- 19428 Human protein gene catalog
- 19649 Delayed brain maturation in ADHD

Contents

THIS WEEK IN PNAS

19161 In This Issue

COMMENTARIES

- 19163 **The discovery of kelp forests in deep-water habitats of tropical regions**
Bernabé Santelices
→ See companion article on page 16576 in issue 42 of volume 104
- 19165 **Clinical implications of the loss of vasoactive nitric oxide during red blood cell storage**
Joseph Bonaventura
→ See companion articles on pages 17058 and 17063 in issue 43 of volume 104
- 19167 **Savanna chimpanzees dig for food**
W. C. McGrew
→ See companion article on page 19210

INAUGURAL ARTICLE

- 19169 **A mathematical tool for exploring the dynamics of biological networks**
Paolo E. Barbano, Marina Spivak, Marc Flajolet, Angus C. Nairn, Paul Greengard, and Leslie Greengard

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PHYSICAL SCIENCES

APPLIED MATHEMATICS

- 19169 **A mathematical tool for exploring the dynamics of biological networks**
☀ Paolo E. Barbano, Marina Spivak, Marc Flajolet, Angus C. Nairn, Paul Greengard, and Leslie Greengard
- 19175 **Subnetwork analysis reveals dynamic features of complex (bio)chemical networks**
Carsten Conradi, Dietrich Flockerzi, Jörg Raisch, and Jörg Stelling

CHEMISTRY

- 19181 **Axial ligand tuning of a nonheme iron(IV)–oxo unit for hydrogen atom abstraction**
Chivukula V. Sastri, Jimin Lee, Kyungeun Oh, Yoon Jin Lee, Junghyun Lee, Timothy A. Jackson, Kallol Ray, Hajime Hirao, Woonsup Shin, Jason A. Halfen, Jinheung Kim, Lawrence Que, Jr., Sason Shaik, and Wonwoo Nam

PHYSICS

- 19187 **Symmetry, shape, and order**
Antonio Trovato, Trinh Xuan Hoang, Jayanth R. Banavar, and Amos Maritan
- 19193 **Does the *h* index have predictive power?**
J. E. Hirsch

STATISTICS

- 19199 **A forest-based approach to identifying gene and gene–gene interactions**
☀ Xiang Chen, Ching-Ti Liu, Meizhuo Zhang, and Heping Zhang

SOCIAL SCIENCES

PSYCHOLOGY

- 19204 **The blinking spotlight of attention**
Rufin VanRullen, Thomas Carlson, and Patrick Cavanagh

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ANTHROPOLOGY

- 19210 **Savanna chimpanzees use tools to harvest the underground storage organs of plants**
R. Adriana Hernandez-Aguilar, Jim Moore, and Travis Rayne Pickering
→ See Commentary on page 19167
- 19214 **Global climate change, war, and population decline in recent human history**
David D. Zhang, Peter Brecke, Harry F. Lee, Yuan-Qing He, and Jane Zhang
- 19220 **A new Late Miocene great ape from Kenya and its implications for the origins of African great apes and humans**
Yutaka Kunitatsu, Masato Nakatsukasa, Yoshihiro Sawada, Tetsuya Sakai, Masayuki Hyodo, Hironobu Hyodo, Tetsumaru Itaya, Hideo Nakaya, Haruo Saegusa, Arnaud Mazurier, Mototaka Saneyoshi, Hiroshi Tsujikawa, Ayumi Yamamoto, and Emma Mbua

BIOCHEMISTRY

- 19169 **A mathematical tool for exploring the dynamics of biological networks**
Paolo E. Barbano, Marina Spivak, Marc Flajolet, Angus C. Nairn, Paul Greengard, and Leslie Greengard
- 19226 **JARID1B is a histone H3 lysine 4 demethylase up-regulated in prostate cancer**
Yang Xiang, Ziqi Zhu, Gang Han, Xiaolei Ye, Bo Xu, Zhuochun Peng, Yuanjun Ma, Yi Yu, Hanqing Lin, Adele Pin Chen, and Charlie Degui Chen
- 19232 **Directed selection of a conformational antibody domain that prevents mature amyloid fibril formation by stabilizing A β protofibrils**
Gernot Habicht, Christian Haupt, Ralf P. Friedrich, Peter Hortschansky, Carsten Sachse, Jessica Meinhardt, Karin Wieligmann, Gerald P. Gellermann, Michael Brodhun, Jürgen Götz, Karl-Jürgen Halbhauer, Christoph Röcken, Uwe Horn, and Marcus Fändrich
- 19238 **Epidermal growth factor receptor juxtamembrane region regulates allosteric tyrosine kinase activation**
Kristina W. Thiel and Graham Carpenter
- 19244 **Antiinflammatory glucocorticoid receptor ligand with reduced side effects exhibits an altered protein-protein interaction profile**
Jeffrey N. Miner, Bob Ardecky, Khalid Benbatoul, Kimberly Griffiths, Christopher J. Larson, Dale E. Mais, Keith Marschke, Jon Rosen, Eric Vajda, Lin Zhi, and Andres Negro-Vilar
- 19250 **Mitochondrial origin-binding protein UMSBP mediates DNA replication and segregation in trypanosomes**
Neta Milman, Shawn A. Motyka, Paul T. Englund, Derrick Robinson, and Joseph Shlomai

- 19256 **Protein-protein interaction inhibition (2P2I) combining high throughput and virtual screening: Application to the HIV-1 Nef protein**
Stéphane Betzi, Audrey Restouin, Sandrine Opi, Stefan T. Arold, Isabelle Parrot, Françoise Guerlesquin, Xavier Morelli, and Yves Collette
- 19262 **Laforin is a glycogen phosphatase, deficiency of which leads to elevated phosphorylation of glycogen *in vivo***
Vincent S. Tagliabracci, Julie Turnbull, Wei Wang, Jean-Marie Girard, Xiaochu Zhao, Alexander V. Skurat, Antonio V. Delgado-Escueta, Berge A. Minassian, Anna A. DePaoli-Roach, and Peter J. Roach
- 19267 **A novel polydnavirus protein inhibits the insect prophenoloxidase activation pathway**
Markus H. Beck and Michael R. Strand
- 19273 **The *all-trans*-retinal dimer series of lipofuscin pigments in retinal pigment epithelial cells in a recessive Stargardt disease model**
So R. Kim, Young P. Jang, Steffen Jockusch, Nathan E. Fishkin, Nicholas J. Turro, and Janet R. Sparrow
- 19279 **Structure of the *Nitrosomonas europaea* Rh protein**
Xin Li, Sanjay Jayachandran, Hiep-Hoa T. Nguyen, and Michael K. Chan
- 19285 **Regulation of hypothalamic malonyl-CoA by central glucose and leptin**
Michael J. Wolfgang, Seung Hun Cha, Aniket Sidhaye, Shigeru Chohnan, Gary Cline, Gerald I. Shulman, and M. Daniel Lane
- 19291 **A biochemical approach to identifying microRNA targets**
Fedor V. Karginov, Cecilia Conaco, Zhenyu Xuan, Bryan H. Schmidt, Joel S. Parker, Gail Mandel, and Gregory J. Hannon
- 19297 **Construction of effective free energy landscape from single-molecule time series**
Akinori Baba and Tamiki Komatsuzaki
- 19303 **The 1.3-Å resolution structure of *Nitrosomonas europaea* Rh50 and mechanistic implications for NH₃ transport by Rhesus family proteins**
Domenico Lupo, Xiao-Dan Li, Anne Durand, Takashi Tomizaki, Baya Cherif-Zahar, Giorgio Matassi, Mike Merrick, and Fritz K. Winkler
- 19309 **Disulfide bond influence on protein structural dynamics probed with 2D-IR vibrational echo spectroscopy**
Haruto Ishikawa, Seongheun Kim, Kyungwon Kwak, Keisuke Wakasugi, and Michael D. Fayer
- 19315 **Cryo-EM study of the spinach chloroplast ribosome reveals the structural and functional roles of plastid-specific ribosomal proteins**
Manjuli R. Sharma, Daniel N. Wilson, Partha P. Datta, Chandana Barat, Frank Schluenzen, Paola Fucini, and Rajendra K. Agrawal
- 19321 **Mechanoenzymes under superstall and large assisting loads reveal structural features**
Denis Tsygankov and Michael E. Fisher

CELL BIOLOGY

- 19175 **Subnetwork analysis reveals dynamic features of complex (bio)chemical networks**
Carsten Conradi, Dietrich Flockerzi, Jörg Raisch, and Jörg Stelling
- 19327 **Matrix metalloproteinase 7 controls pancreatic acinar cell transdifferentiation by activating the Notch signaling pathway**
Eric T. Sawey, Johnny A. Johnson, and Howard C. Crawford
- 19333 **Essential role of Epac2/Rap1 signaling in regulation of insulin granule dynamics by cAMP**
Tadao Shibasaki, Harumi Takahashi, Takashi Miki, Yasuhiro Sunaga, Kimio Matsumura, Mami Yamanaka, Changliang Zhang, Atsuko Tamamoto, Takaya Satoh, Jun-ichi Miyazaki, and Susumu Seino
- 19339 **Structural differentiation of skeletal muscle fibers in the absence of innervation in humans**
Simona Boncompagni, Helmut Kern, Katia Rossini, Christian Hofer, Winfried Mayr, Ugo Carraro, and Feliciano Protasi
- 19345 **Beyond aerobic glycolysis: Transformed cells can engage in glutamine metabolism that exceeds the requirement for protein and nucleotide synthesis**
Ralph J. DeBerardinis, Anthony Mancuso, Evgueni Daikhin, Ilana Nissim, Marc Yudkoff, Suzanne Wehrli, and Craig B. Thompson

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

- 19351 **DNA methylation, insulin resistance, and blood pressure in offspring determined by maternal periconceptional B vitamin and methionine status**
Kevin D. Sinclair, Cinzia Allegrucci, Ravinder Singh, David S. Gardner, Sonia Sebastian, Jayson Bispham, Alexandra Thurston, John F. Huntley, William D. Rees, Christopher A. Maloney, Richard G. Lea, Jim Craigon, Tom G. McEvoy, and Lorraine E. Young
- 19357 **Blocking LIF action in the uterus by using a PEGylated antagonist prevents implantation: A nonhormonal contraceptive strategy**
Christine A. White, Jian-Guo Zhang, Lois A. Salamonsen, Manuel Baca, W. Douglas Fairlie, Donald Metcalf, Nicos A. Nicola, Lorraine Robb, and Evdokia Dimitriadis

EVOLUTION

- 19363 **Using plastid genome-scale data to resolve enigmatic relationships among basal angiosperms**
Michael J. Moore, Charles D. Bell, Pamela S. Soltis, and Douglas E. Soltis
- 19369 **Analysis of 81 genes from 64 plastid genomes resolves relationships in angiosperms and identifies genome-scale evolutionary patterns**
Robert K. Jansen, Zhengqiu Cai, Linda A. Raubeson, Henry Daniell, Claude W. dePamphilis, James Leebens-Mack, Kai F. Müller, Mary Guisinger-Bellian, Rosemarie C. Haberle, Anne K. Hansen, Timothy W. Chumley, Seung-Bum Lee, Rhiannon Peery, Joel R. McNeal, Jennifer V. Kuehl, and Jeffrey L. Boore
- 19375 **Long-term evolution of transposable elements**
Arnaud Le Rouzic, Thibaud S. Boutin, and Pierre Capy
- 19381 **The signal environment is more important than diet or chemical specialization in the evolution of warning coloration**
Kathleen L. Prudic, Jeffrey C. Oliver, and Felix A. H. Sperling

- 19387 **Genetic variation in the cysteine biosynthesis pathway causes sensitivity to pharmacological compounds**
Hyun Seok Kim and Justin C. Fay
- 19392 **Parallel genomic evolution and metabolic interdependence in an ancient symbiosis**
John P. McCutcheon and Nancy A. Moran
- 19398 **Extensive simple sequence repeat genotyping of potato landraces supports a major reevaluation of their gene pool structure and classification**
David M. Spooner, Jorge Núñez, Guillermo Trujillo, María del Rosario Herrera, Frank Guzmán, and Marc Ghislain
- 19404 **Evolutionary plasticity of developmental gene regulatory network architecture**
Veronica F. Hinman and Eric H. Davidson

GENETICS

- 19199 **A forest-based approach to identifying gene and gene-gene interactions**
Xiang Chen, Ching-Ti Liu, Meizhuo Zhang, and Heping Zhang
- 19410 **Pseudouridylation of helix 69 of 23S rRNA is necessary for an effective translation termination**
Morten Ejby, Michael A. Sørensen, and Steen Pedersen
- 19416 **Integrated epigenomic analyses of neuronal MeCP2 reveal a role for long-range interaction with active genes**
Dag H. Yasui, Sailaja Peddada, Mark C. Bieda, Roxanne O. Vallero, Amber Hogart, Raman P. Nagarajan, Karen N. Thatcher, Peggy J. Farnham, and Janine M. LaSalle
- 19422 **A knockin mouse model of the Bardet-Biedl syndrome 1 M390R mutation has cilia defects, ventriculomegaly, retinopathy, and obesity**
Roger E. Davis, Ruth E. Swiderski, Kamal Rahmouni, Darryl Y. Nishimura, Robert F. Mullins, Khristofor Agassandian, Alisdair R. Philp, Charles C. Searby, Michael P. Andrews, Stewart Thompson, Christopher J. Berry, Daniel R. Thedens, Baoli Yang, Robert M. Weiss, Martin D. Cassell, Edwin M. Stone, and Val C. Sheffield
- 19428 **Distinguishing protein-coding and noncoding genes in the human genome**
Michele Clamp, Ben Fry, Mike Kamal, Xiaohui Xie, James Cuff, Michael F. Lin, Manolis Kellis, Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, and Eric S. Lander

IMMUNOLOGY

- 19434 **Histamine is stored in mast cells of most evolutionarily advanced fish and regulates the fish inflammatory response**
Iván Mulero, M. Pilar Sepulcre, José Meseguer, Alfonsa García-Ayala, and Victoriano Mulero
- 19440 **Chronic stimulation of Nod2 mediates tolerance to bacterial products**
Matija Hedl, Jing Li, Judy H. Cho, and Clara Abraham
- 19446 **CD4⁺CD25⁺Foxp3⁺ regulatory T cells induce alternative activation of human monocytes/macrophages**
Machteld M. Tiemessen, Ann L. Jagger, Hayley G. Evans, Martijn J. C. van Herwijnen, Susan John, and Leonie S. Taams

19452 **Assembly and structural properties of glucocorticoid-induced TNF receptor ligand: Implications for function**
Kausik Chattopadhyay, Udupi A. Ramagopal, Arunika Mukhopadhyaya, Vladimir N. Malashkevich, Teresa P. DiLorenzo, Michael Brenowitz, Stanley G. Nathenson, and Steven C. Almo

19458 **B7-H3 and B7x are highly expressed in human prostate cancer and associated with disease spread and poor outcome**
Xingxing Zang, R. Houston Thompson, Hikmat A. Al-Ahmadie, Angel M. Serio, Victor E. Reuter, James A. Eastham, Peter T. Scardino, Padmanee Sharma, and James P. Allison

MEDICAL SCIENCES

19464 **Syndecan-3 is a dendritic cell-specific attachment receptor for HIV-1**
Lot de Witte, Michael Bobardt, Udayan Chatterji, Gisèle Degeest, Guido David, Teunis B. H. Geijtenbeek, and Philippe Gallay

19470 **Dynamic interplay between nitration and phosphorylation of tubulin cofactor B in the control of microtubule dynamics**
Suresh K. Rayala, Emil Martin, Iraida G. Sharina, Poonam R. Molli, Xiaoping Wang, Raymond Jacobson, Ferid Murad, and Rakesh Kumar

19476 **Silencing of OB-RGRP in mouse hypothalamic arcuate nucleus increases leptin receptor signaling and prevents diet-induced obesity**
Cyril Couturier, Chamsy Sarkis, Karin Séron, Sandrine Belouard, Patty Chen, Aude Lenain, Laetitia Corset, Julie Dam, Virginie Vauthier, Anne Dubart, Jacques Mallet, Philippe Froguel, Yves Rouillé, and Ralf Jockers

19482 **HDAC inhibitor PCI-24781 decreases RAD51 expression and inhibits homologous recombination**
Shanthi Adimoolam, Mint Sirisawad, Jun Chen, Patti Thiemann, James M. Ford, and Joseph J. Buggy

19488 **Tumor cell-selective regulation of NOXA by c-MYC in response to proteasome inhibition**
Mikhail A. Nikiforov, MaryBeth Riblett, Wen-Hua Tang, Vladimir Gratchouk, Dazhong Zhuang, Yolanda Fernandez, Monique Verhaegen, Sooryanarayana Varambally, Arul M. Chinnaiyan, Andrzej J. Jakubowiak, and Maria S. Soengas

19494 **In vivo multiphoton microscopy of NADH and FAD redox states, fluorescence lifetimes, and cellular morphology in precancerous epithelia**
Melissa C. Skala, Kristin M. Riching, Annette Gendron-Fitzpatrick, Jens Eickhoff, Kevin W. Eliceiri, John G. White, and Nirmala Ramanujam

19500 **NIX is required for programmed mitochondrial clearance during reticulocyte maturation**
Rachel L. Schweers, Ji Zhang, Mindy S. Randall, Melanie R. Loyd, Weimin Li, Frank C. Dorsey, Mondira Kundu, Joseph T. Opferman, John L. Cleveland, Jeffery L. Miller, and Paul A. Ney

19506 **ID genes mediate tumor reinitiation during breast cancer lung metastasis**
Gaorav P. Gupta, Jonathan Perk, Swarnali Acharyya, Paola de Candia, Vivek Mittal, Katia Todorova-Manova, William L. Gerald, Edi Brogi, Robert Benezra, and Joan Massagué

19512 **Small molecule obatoclax (GX15-070) antagonizes MCL-1 and overcomes MCL-1-mediated resistance to apoptosis**
Mai Nguyen, Richard C. Marcellus, Anne Roulston, Mark Watson, Lucile Serfass, S. R. Murthy Madiraju, Daniel Goulet, Jean Viallet, Laurent Bélec, Xavier Billot, Stephane Acoca, Enrico Purisima, Adrian Wiegman, Leonie Cluse, Ricky W. Johnstone, Pierre Beauparlant, and Gordon C. Shore

MICROBIOLOGY

19518 **Cytoskeletal "jellyfish" structure of *Mycoplasma mobile***
Daisuke Nakane and Makoto Miyata

19524 **Rapid magnetosome formation shown by real-time x-ray magnetic circular dichroism**
Sarah Staniland, Bruce Ward, Andrew Harrison, Gerrit van der Laan, and Neil Telling

19529 **Substrate binding by a bacterial ABC transporter involved in polysaccharide export**
Leslie Cuthbertson, Matthew S. Kimber, and Chris Whitfield

19535 **Crystal structure of measles virus hemagglutinin provides insight into effective vaccines**
Takao Hashiguchi, Mizuho Kajikawa, Nobuo Maita, Makoto Takeda, Kimiko Kuroki, Kaori Sasaki, Daisuke Kohda, Yusuke Yanagi, and Katsumi Maenaka

19541 **Human papillomaviruses activate caspases upon epithelial differentiation to induce viral genome amplification**
Cary A. Moody, Amelie Fradet-Turcotte, Jacques Archambault, and Laimonis A. Laimins

19547 **The P2 capsid protein of the nonenveloped rice dwarf phytoeovirus induces membrane fusion in insect host cells**
Feng Zhou, Yingying Pu, Taiyuan Wei, Huijun Liu, Wulan Deng, Chunhong Wei, Biao Ding, Toshihiro Omura, and Yi Li

NEUROSCIENCE

19204 **The blinking spotlight of attention**
Rufin VanRullen, Thomas Carlson, and Patrick Cavanagh

19553 **Regulation of spine morphology and spine density by NMDA receptor signaling *in vivo***
Sila K. Ultanir, Ji-Eun Kim, Benjamin J. Hall, Thomas Deerinck, Mark Ellisman, and Anirvan Ghosh

19559 **Modulation of metabolic brain networks after subthalamic gene therapy for Parkinson's disease**
Andrew Feigin, Michael G. Kaplitt, Chengke Tang, Tanya Lin, Paul Mattis, Vijay Dhawan, Matthew J. During, and David Eidelberg

19565 **Redundant and unique roles of retinol dehydrogenases in the mouse retina**
Akiko Maeda, Tadao Maeda, Wenyu Sun, Houbin Zhang, Wolfgang Baehr, and Krzysztof Palczewski

19571 **A structural basis for enhancement of long-term associative memory in single dendritic spines regulated by PKC**
Jarin Hongpaisan and Daniel L. Alkon

19577 **Specific subgroups of Fru^M neurons control sexually dimorphic patterns of aggression in *Drosophila melanogaster***
Yick-Bun Chan and Edward A. Kravitz

- 19583 **A helix-breaking mutation in TRPML3 leads to constitutive activity underlying deafness in the varitint-waddler mouse**
Christian Grimm, Math P. Cuajungco, Alexander F. J. van Aken, Michael Schnee, Simone Jörs, Corné J. Kros, Anthony J. Ricci, and Stefan Heller

PHARMACOLOGY

- 19589 **Identification of retinoic acid as an inhibitor of transcription factor Nrf2 through activation of retinoic acid receptor alpha**
 Xiu Jun Wang, John D. Hayes, Colin J. Henderson, and C. Roland Wolf

- 19595 **Acute-phase protein α -1-acid glycoprotein mediates neutrophil migration failure in sepsis by a nitric oxide-dependent mechanism**
F. L. A. C. Mestriner, F. Spiller, H. J. Laure, F. O. Souto, B. M. Tavares-Murta, J. C. Rosa, A. Basile-Filho, S. H. Ferreira, L. J. Greene, and F. Q. Cunha

PHYSIOLOGY

- 19f01 **β cell-specific deficiency of the stimulatory G protein α -subunit $G_{s\alpha}$ leads to reduced β cell mass and insulin-deficient diabetes**
Tao Xie, Min Chen, Qing-Hong Zhang, Zheng Ma, and Lee S. Weinstein
- 19607 **Yeast gain-of-function mutations reveal structure-function relationships conserved among different subfamilies of transient receptor potential channels**
Zhenwei Su, Xinliang Zhou, W. John Haynes, Stephen H. Loukin, Andriy Anishkin, Yoshiro Saimi, and Ching Kung

PLANT BIOLOGY

- 19613 **CERK1, a LysM receptor kinase, is essential for chitin elicitor signaling in *Arabidopsis***
Ayako Miya, Premkumar Albert, Tomonori Shinya, Yoshitake Desaki, Kazuya Ichimura, Ken Shirasu, Yoshihiro Narusaka, Naoto Kawakami, Hanae Kaku, and Naoto Shibuya
- 19619 **Phloem loading in *Verbascum phoeniceum* L. depends on the synthesis of raffinose-family oligosaccharides**
Ashlee McCaskill and Robert Turgeon
- 19625 **AUREOCHROME, a photoreceptor required for photomorphogenesis in stramenopiles**
Fumio Takahashi, Daisuke Yamagata, Mié Ishikawa, Yosuke Fukamatsu, Yasunobu Ogura, Masahiro Kasahara, Tomohiro Kiyosue, Munehiro Kikuyama, Masamitsu Wada, and Hironao Kataoka
- 19631 **Delayed leaf senescence induces extreme drought tolerance in a flowering plant**
Rosa M. Rivero, Mikiko Kojima, Amira Gepstein, Hitoshi Sakakibara, Ron Mittler, Shimon Gepstein, and Eduardo Blumwald
- 19637 **Vitamin B1 biosynthesis in plants requires the essential iron-sulfur cluster protein, THIC**
Maja Raschke, Lukas Bürkle, Nadine Müller, Adriano Nunes-Nesi, Alisdair R. Fernie, Duilio Arigoni, Nikolaus Amrhein, and Teresa B. Fitzpatrick

PSYCHOLOGY

- 19643 **Task-specific change of unconscious neural priming in the cerebral language network**
Kimihiro Nakamura, Stanislas Dehaene, Antoinette Jobert, Denis Le Bihan, and Sid Kouider
- 19649 **Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder is characterized by a delay in cortical maturation**
P. Shaw, K. Eckstrand, W. Sharp, J. Blumenthal, J. P. Lerch, D. Greenstein, L. Clasen, A. Evans, J. Giedd, and J. L. Rapoport

CORRECTIONS

CELL BIOLOGY

- 19655 **Activation of the PTEN/mTOR/STAT3 pathway in breast cancer stem-like cells is required for viability and maintenance**
Jiangbing Zhou, Julia Wulfschle, Hao Zhang, Peihua Gu, Yanqin Yang, Jianghong Deng, Joseph B. Margolick, Lance A. Liotta, Emanuel Petricoin III, and Ying Zhang

MEDICAL SCIENCES

- 19656 **The EGF receptor is required for efficient liver regeneration**
Anuradha Natarajan, Bettina Wagner, and Maria Sibilia

MICROBIOLOGY

- 19656 **Isolates of Zaire ebolavirus from wild apes reveal genetic lineage and recombinants**
Tatiana J. Wittmann, Roman Biek, Alexandre Hassanin, Pierre Rouquet, Patricia Reed, Philippe Yaba, Xavier Pourrut, Leslie A. Real, Jean-Paul Gonzalez, and Eric M. Leroy

NEUROSCIENCE

- 19656 **Dissociating the neural mechanisms of memory-based guidance of visual selection**
David Soto, Glyn W. Humphreys, and Pia Rotshtein

SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

- 19656 **Poverty and Hunger Special Feature: The African Millennium Villages**
Pedro Sanchez, Cheryl Palm, Jeffrey Sachs, Glenn Denning, Rafael Flor, Rebbie Harawa, Bashir Jama, Tsegazeab Kiflemariam, Bronwen Konecky, Raffaella Kozar, Eliud Lelera, Alia Malik, Vijay Modi, Patrick Mutuo, Amadou Niang, Herine Okoth, Frank Place, Sonia Ehrlich Sachs, Amir Said, David Siriri, Awash Teklehaimanot, Karen Wang, Justine Wangila, and Colleen Zamba

xi-xiii Author Index

xiv Subscription Form

xv Classified Advertisement

Extensive simple sequence repeat genotyping of potato landraces supports a major reevaluation of their gene pool structure and classification

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Contrasting taxonomic treatments of potato landraces have continued over the last century, with the recognition of anywhere from 1 to 21 distinct Linnean species, or of Cultivar Groups within the single species *Solanum tuberosum*. We provide one of the largest molecular marker studies of any crop landraces to date, to include an extensive study of 742 landraces of all cultivated species (or Cultivar Groups) and 8 closely related wild species progenitors, with 50 nuclear simple sequence repeat (SSR) (also known as microsatellite) primer pairs and a plastid DNA deletion marker that distinguishes most lowland Chilean from upland Andean landraces. Neighbor-joining results highlight a tendency to separate three groups: (i) putative diploids, (ii) putative tetraploids, and (iii) the hybrid cultivated species *S. ajanhuiri* (diploid), *S. juzepczukii* (triploid), and *S. curtilobum* (pentaploid). However, there are many exceptions to grouping by ploidy. Strong statistical support occurs only for *S. ajanhuiri*, *S. juzepczukii*, and *S. curtilobum*. In combination with recent morphological analyses and an examination of the identification history of these collections, we support the reclassification of the cultivated potatoes into four species: (i) *S. tuberosum*, with two Cultivar Groups (Andigenum Group of upland Andean genotypes containing diploids, triploids, and tetraploids, and the Chilotanum Group of lowland tetraploid Chilean landraces); (ii) *S. ajanhuiri* (diploid); (iii) *S. juzepczukii* (triploid); and (iv) *S. curtilobum* (pentaploid). For other classifications, consistent and stable identifications are impossible, and their classification as species is artificial and only maintains the confusion of users of the gene banks and literature.

cultivated | microsatellites | sect. *Petota* | *Solanum tuberosum* | taxonomy

The cultivated potato represents one of the most important food plants worldwide, yet interpretation of its gene pool structure remains controversial. Contrasting taxonomic treatments of the landraces have continued over last century, with the recognition of anywhere from 1 to 21 distinct Linnean species, or of various Cultivar Groups within the single species *S. tuberosum* (1). For consistency in usage in our article and to maintain the names most familiar to scientists, we use the seven species terminology of Hawkes (2). Indigenous cultivated (landrace) potatoes are widely distributed in the Andes from western Venezuela, south to northern Argentina, and with another set of landraces in south-central Chile in Chiloé Island and the adjacent Chonos Archipelago. The Chilean landraces, although once proposed to have arisen independently from central Chile (3), are secondarily derived from the Andean ones (2), likely after hybridization with the Bolivian and Argentinean species *Solanum berthaultii* (4), a species recently combined with the formerly recognized wild species *S. tarijense* (5). Three of the Andean-cultivated species are hypothesized to be of hybrid origins with cultivated potatoes and wild species: *S. ajanhuiri* [*S. stenotomum* cultivated $\times$ *S. megistacrolobum* wild (6)], *S. juzepczukii* [*S. stenotomum* $\times$ *S. acaule* wild (7, 8)], and *S. curtilobum* [*S. andigenum* cultivated $\times$ *S. juzepczukii* (7, 8)]. The latter three “bitter potatoes” are grown in upland habitats and are not

grown nearly as extensively as *S. tuberosum*, as outlined by Huamán and Spooner (1).

The relationships and extent of genetic differentiation between the Andean and Chilean landraces has long been controversial. Based on cytoplasmic sterility factors, geographical isolation, and ecological differences, Grun (9) suggested that Chilean landraces were distinct from Andean landraces. Hawkes (2) distinguished the tetraploid Chilean from Andean landraces by characters of the leaf and flower pedicel. Plastid restriction site data documented five genotypes (A, C, S, T, and W types) in the diploid and tetraploid Andean landraces, and the Chilean landraces had three types, A, T, and W (10, 11). The most frequently observed type in the Chilean landraces (21 of 24 or 87.5% of the accessions examined) is type T, which is characterized by a 241-bp deletion (12). Conversely, 5 of the 113 (4.4%) accessions of *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* had the T type (10–12).

Potato landraces have been classified into 21 species (13, 14), 7 species with seven subspecies (2) and 9 species with two subspecies (15, 16), or as the single species *S. tuberosum* with 8 user-defined Cultivar Groups (1). Cultivar Groups are taxonomic categories used by the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants to associate cultivated plants with traits that are of use to agriculturists and are not meant to represent natural groups or species in any classification philosophy. Ploidy levels in cultivated potatoes range from diploid ($2n = 2x = 24$), to triploid ($2n = 3x = 36$), to tetraploid ($2n = 4x = 48$), to pentaploid ($2n = 5x = 60$). Huamán and Spooner (1) examined the morphological support for the various classifications of potato landraces using representatives of all seven species from the classification of Hawkes (2). The results showed some morphological support for *S. ajanhuiri*, *S. chaucha*, *S. curtilobum*, and *S. juzepczukii*, lesser support for *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum*, and no support for *S. phureja* and *S. stenotomum*. Whatever morphological support for these entities was present was only by using a suite of characters, all of which are shared with other taxa (polythetic support). These results, combined with their likely hybrid origins, multiple origins, and evolutionary dynamics of continuing hybridization, led Huamán and Spooner (1) to recognize all landrace populations of cultivated potatoes as a single species, *S. tuberosum*, with the eight Cultivar Groups: Ajanhuiri Group, Andigenum Group, Chaucha Group, Chilotanum Group, Curtilobum Group, Juzepczukii Group, Phureja Group, and Stenotomum Group (the latter containing all landraces of the Goniocalyx Group).

Author contributions: J.N., G.T., M.d.R.H., F.G., and M.G. performed research; and D.M.S. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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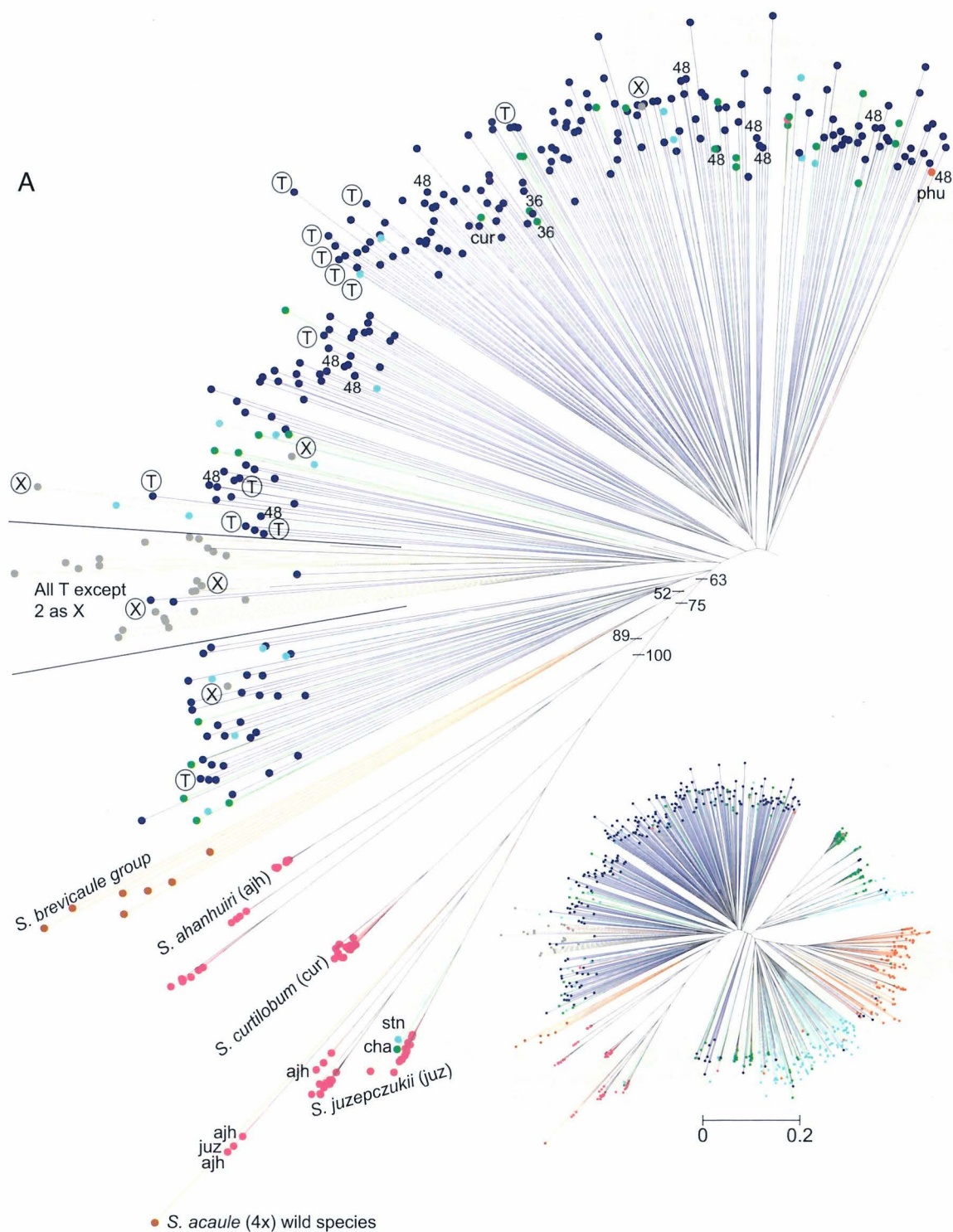
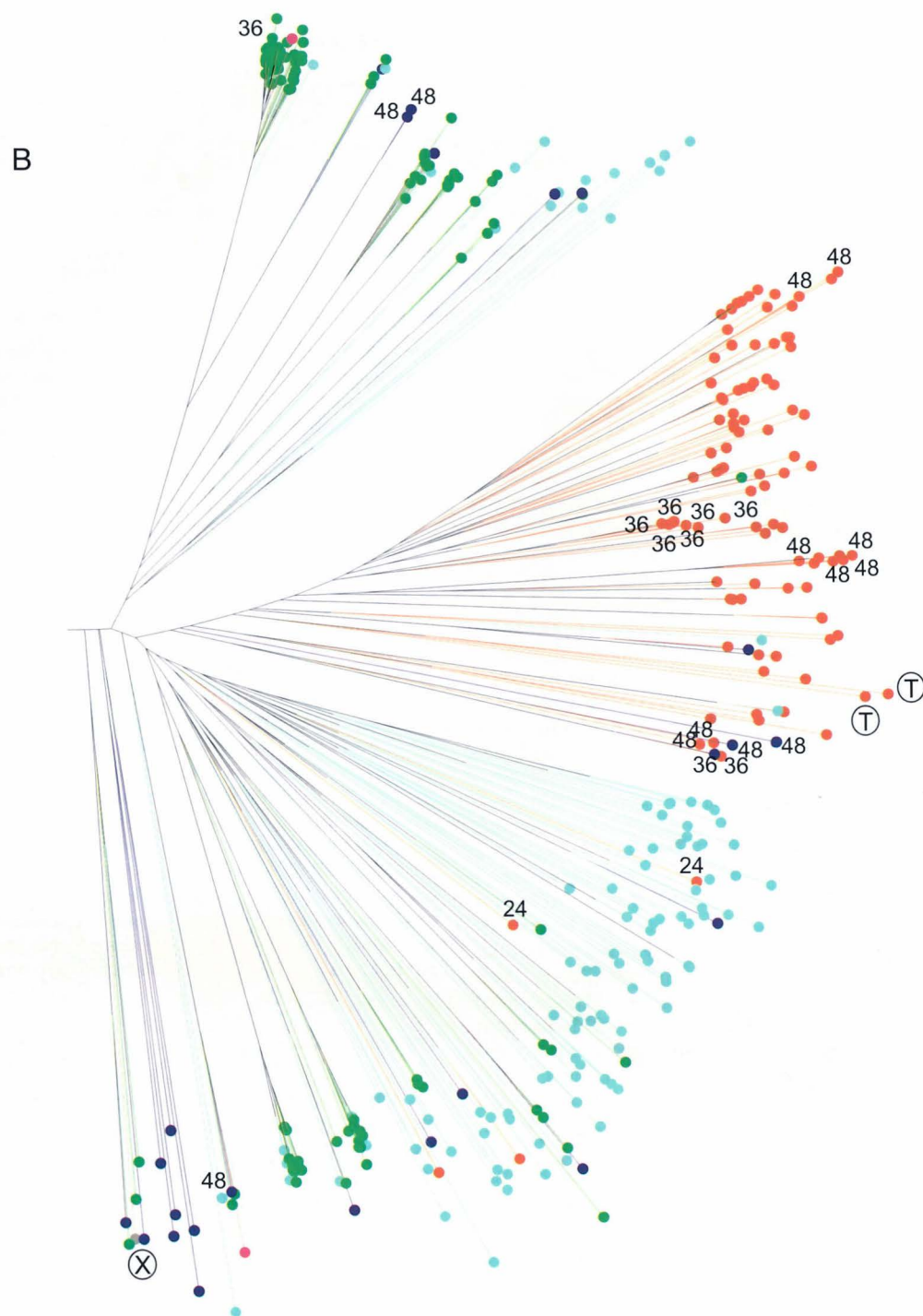


Fig. 1. (Figure continues on the opposite page.)

The wild relatives of these landraces (*Solanum* section *Petota*) are all tuber-bearing and include ≈ 190 wild species that are widely distributed in the Americas from the southwestern United States to southern Chile (17); they possess all ploidy levels of the cultivars, as well as hexaploids ($2n = 6x = 72$). Spooner *et al.* (18) studied the origin of the landraces *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*, *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum*, *S. phureja*, and *S. stenotomum* with amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs). They discovered that (i) in contrast to all prior hypotheses, these species were shown to have

a monophyletic origin; (ii) the wild species progenitors were from a group of very similar wild potato species classified in the *Solanum brevicaulle* complex; and (iii) the landraces had their origin in the highlands of southern Peru.

Although ploidy has been a major feature to define the cultivated species, many cultivated potato germplasm collections lack chromosome numbers, and many assumptions of ploidy are likely in error. For example, Ghislain *et al.* (19) used simple sequence repeats (SSRs) (also known as microsatellites) to



Pink - *Solanum ajanhuiri* (ajh, 2x), *S. juzepczukii* (juz, 3x), *S. curtilobum* (cur, 5x)
 Dark blue - *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* (adg, 4x)
 Green - *S. chaucha* (cha, 3x)
 Gray - *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum* (tub, 4x)
 Red - *S. phureja* (phu, 2x)
 Light blue - *S. stenotomum* (stn, 2x)

Fig. 1. Jaccard's tree based on a dissimilarity matrix of 742 potato landraces and 8 wild species examined with 50 microsatellite primer pairs. (Inset) Overall view of the entire tree. (A) Detail of the left-hand side of this tree, which contains mostly putative polyploid accessions (the "polyploid cluster") and accessions of *S. ajanhuiri*, *S. curtilobum*, *S. juzepczukii*, and wild species. (B) Mostly putative diploid accessions and some triploids (the "diploid cluster"). Chromosome numbers (36 and 48) are labeled for accessions not 24 within the main red *S. phureja* cluster (in red) on the left right side of the tree or previously identified as *S. phureja* but falling outside of the red cluster. The circled "T" (possessing a 241-bp deletion) and "X" (no deletion) designate accessions unexpected to occur in these clusters because they either lack the T cytoplasm thought to be largely confined to lowland Chile (area in the wedge) or lack this deletion (area outside of the wedge containing mostly accessions from Venezuela to Argentina).

assess diversity in the *S. phureja* collection at the International Potato Center. *Solanum phureja* is widely grown in the Andes from western Venezuela to central Bolivia and has been defined by short-day adaptation, diploid ploidy ($2n = 2x = 24$), and a lack of tuber dormancy. SSR results, in combination with chromosome counts, uncovered fully 31% (32 of 102 accessions examined) triploid and tetraploid accessions from the International Potato Center collection of *S. phureja* that were long assumed to be exclusively diploid.

The purpose of our study is to reexamine the support for classification categories for landrace potatoes, using nuclear SSR markers developed for optimal utility in *S. tuberosum* regarding polymorphism, quality scores, and genomic coverage (20), supplemented with a plastid DNA deletion marker as discussed below. Nuclear SSRs have been shown to be ideal markers for detecting phylogenetically significant diversity within cultivated potatoes (19, 21, 22). In addition, their codominant nature allows them to identify polyploids when three or four bands (alleles) are found, as was shown by Ghislain *et al.* (19). This is particularly important for our study, where few cultivated accessions have been characterized for chromosome number yet ploidy has been so important conceptually in defining the cultivated species. Our study also used the 241-bp plastid deletion marker distinguishing most populations of Chilean from Andean potato landraces (4, 12, 23).

Results and Discussion

SSR Neighbor-Joining (NJ) Tree. NJ results highlight a tendency to separate three broad groups: (i) putative diploids and triploids (all accessions in the diploid cluster Fig. 1), (ii) putative tetraploids and triploids (most accessions in the polyploid cluster of Fig. 1), and (iii) the hybrid cultivated species *S. ajanhuiri* (diploid), *S. juzepczukii* (triploid), and *S. curtilobum* (pentaploid), grouped with the wild species. Bootstrap support above 50% is common in many small groups of species in the terminal branches of the NJ tree (not shown because they greatly complicate the graphic). However, bootstrap support above 50% is present only in the lower nodes supporting *S. ajanhuiri*, *S. juzepczukii*, and *S. curtilobum* and the wild species.

However, there are many exceptions of clustering by ploidy. Landraces of *S. goniocalyx*, as in the morphological study of Huamán and Spooner (1), were invariably intermixed with those of *S. stenotomum* and are so labeled as this species on Fig. 1. There are 28 putative triploid landraces of *S. chaucha* present on the main polyploid cluster of the tree and 123 on the main diploid cluster. There are 28 putative tetraploids (*S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* and subsp. *tuberosum*) on the diploid cluster and 28 putative diploids (*S. phureja* and *S. stenotomum*) on the tetraploid cluster. In addition, *S. phureja* (the only cultivated species with extensive chromosome counts) shows 18 of the 89 accessions to be triploid or tetraploid. Regarding the *S. phureja*, Fig. 1 shows the position of all accessions formerly identified as this species in the International Potato Center collection (24) but shown to be polyploid in the study of Ghislain *et al.* (19). Most are present in the main “*S. phureja* cluster” (red dots in the diploid cluster of Fig. 1), but this cluster also contains two accessions of *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*, two of *S. stenotomum*, and one of *S. chaucha*, and with 10 accessions elsewhere on the diploid cluster and 16 on the polyploid cluster. As expected, most (22 of 27) of the *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum* accessions clustered together (the area in the wedge in the polyploid cluster in Fig. 1). However, this cluster also contained three accessions of *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*.

241-bp Plastid Deletion. We determined the presence or absence of the 241-bp plastid deletion for all 742 cultivated accessions examined. As expected, most (22 of 23) of the *S. tuberosum*

subsp. *tuberosum* accessions in the main cluster of this subspecies (designated by the wedge in the polyploid cluster of Fig. 1) possessed this deletion. Also in the area of the wedge are three tetraploid accessions from Peru (dark blue); two of these possess the deletion, and one lacks it (the two accessions lacking the deletion are marked with “X”).

All four remaining accessions from Chile falling outside of this cluster (gray dots marked with “X”) lack the 241-bp deletion characteristic of this subspecies, suggesting misidentifications of possible recent introductions of the *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* into Chile. Thirteen of the 251 *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* accessions (5.2%; marked with “T” outside of the gray *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum* cluster) possessed the deletion, similar to the 4.4% reported in prior studies (above). These 13 accessions are widely distributed throughout the Andes in Venezuela (2 accessions), Colombia (1 accession), Ecuador (13 accessions), Peru (4 accessions), Bolivia (2 accessions), and Argentina (1 accession). In addition, one of the *S. stenotomum* accessions (putatively diploid) and two *S. phureja* accessions (known as diploid) possessed this deletion, the first report of diploid potatoes possessing this deletion, because none of the accessions of *S. stenotomum* (215) and *S. chaucha* (150) previously screened was found with this marker (19, 25). Unfortunately, these three accessions do not have reliable collection information.

Reconsideration of the Classification of Cultivated Potato. In combination with a recent morphological study (1), the SSR data support the reclassification of the cultivated potatoes into four species: (i) *S. tuberosum*, (ii) *S. ajanhuiri* (diploid), (iii) *S. juzepczukii* (triploid), and (iv) *S. curtilobum* (pentaploid). We support dividing *S. tuberosum* into two Cultivar Groups (Andigenum Group of upland Andean genotypes containing diploids, triploids, and tetraploids, and the Chilotanum Group of lowland tetraploid Chilean landraces). Because Cultivar Groups are taxonomic categories used to associate cultivated plants with traits that are of use to agriculturists, this classification is convenient to separate these populations that grow in different areas, are adapted to different day-length regimes, and have some degree of unilateral sexual incompatibility to the Andean populations. For the remaining “species” or Cultivar Groups, consistent and stable identifications are impossible, their classification as Linnean species is artificial, and their maintenance as either species or Cultivar Groups only serves to perpetuate confusion by breeders and gene bank managers, and the instability of names in the literature. For example, Ghislain *et al.* (19) showed *S. phureja* to be indefinable as traditionally recognized because prior authors incorrectly assumed that their assumption of diploidy was incorrect for 31% of the accessions, and our results showed many accessions of *S. phureja* to cluster with the polyploids. The recognition of *S. phureja* as either a species or Cultivar Group (Phureja Group), therefore, is no longer tenable because it is no longer diploid, does not exclusively possess low-dormancy tubers, is not short-day adapted, and is not morphologically coherent (1). The other species (or Cultivar Groups) have ploidy as a major identifying criterion. The results from *S. phureja* and this study indicate that chromosome counts from other accessions of cultivated potatoes will uncover a high proportion of counts not matching expectations based on their identifications.

Ploidy has been of great importance in the classification of cultivated potatoes, but our results show so many exceptions that it is a poor character to define gene pools. Cultivated potato fields contain mixtures of different ploidy levels (6, 26–32). Bukasov (33) was the first to count chromosomes of the cultivated potatoes and used ploidy variation to speculate on hybrid origins. The strong reliance on ploidy levels was clearly stated by Hawkes and Hjerting (34): “The chromosome number of $2n = 36$ largely helps to identify *S. chaucha*, but morphological characters can also be used.”

Morphology is a poor character to define most species or Cultivar

Groups except for the bitter potato species *S. ajanhuiri*, *S. curtilobum*, and *S. juzepczukii*. As shown by Huamán and Spooner (1), most traditionally recognized cultivated potato species have little morphological support, and then only by using a suite of characters, all of which are shared with other taxa (polythetic support).

The International Potato Center has collected cultivated potatoes for 30 years and has invested tremendous effort in their identification. An examination of identification records at the International Potato Center shows many changes over the years, further showing the lack of stability of any character set to reliably define most cultivated species.

Potato gene banks are in great need of an integrated and comprehensive program of ploidy determinations; controlled and replicated studies of tuber dormancy (which we suspect will highlight grades of dormancy, not the present/absent determinations that exist today); photographically documented determinations of tuber and flesh colors and tuber shapes; and determinations of tuber pigments, glycoalkaloid contents, carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, minerals, and secondary metabolites, using functional genomics approaches, with all data publicly integrated into a readily searchable web-based bioinformatics database. Such a multicomponent system will serve the breeding community much better than the outdated, unstable, and phylogenetically indefensible traditional classifications that exist today.

Materials and Methods

Plant Materials. A total of 742 potato landraces of all cultivated potato species were examined: *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*, putatively tetraploid (251 accessions); *S. ajanhuiri*, diploid (22); *S. chaucha*, triploid (151 accessions); *S. tuberosum* subsp. *tuberosum*, tetraploid (27 accessions); *S. curtilobum*, pentaploid (21 accessions); *S. juzepczukii*, triploid (35 accessions); *S. phureja*, diploid (104 accessions); *S. stenotomum*, diploid (131 accessions); 7 diploid wild species accessions in the northern *S. brevicaulis* complex *S. ambosinum* Ochoa (1 accession), *S. bukasovii* Juz. (4 accessions), and *S. multiinterruptum* Bitter (2 accessions); and the wild tetraploid species *S. acaule* Bitter (1 accession) (750 accessions in total with the 8 wild species). Selection of these wild species is based on recent amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) studies that documented the northern *S. brevicaulis* complex wild species to be the progenitors of the cultivated potatoes and *S. acaule* believed to be a wild species parent in the hybrid species *S. juzepczukii* and *S. curtilobum*. We qualify landrace collection ploidy as “putative” because only *S. phureja* has been counted in detail (19), that showed extensive examples of incorrect assumptions of ploidy as discussed above. Data of these accessions that includes International Potato Center accession number, taxonomic identification, ploidy when known, locality of collection, and average number of SSR alleles per accession are available as a supporting information (SI) *Dataset*.

DNA Extraction, SSR Primers, PCR Conditions, and Electrophoresis. Genomic DNA was obtained by using standard protocols at the International Potato Center (35). DNA concentration was calculated by using PicoGreen dsDNA quantitation reagent (Molecular Probes) and a TBS-380 Fluorometer (Turner BioSystems). DNA dilutions were performed to achieve a final concentration of 3 ng/μl, using 96-well plates. We used 50 nuclear SSRs (see *SI Dataset*) screened from 88 that included the 22 from the Potato Genetic Identity (PGI) kit (20), 13 from ESTs developed at the Scottish Crop Research Institute (36), 30 identified by using the

potato EST database at TIGR, and 23 from the University of Idaho (37). PCR reactions were performed in a 10-μl volume containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (Sigma), 20 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄ (Merck), 2.5 mM MgCl₂ (Merck), 0.2 mM each dNTP (Amersham Biosciences), 0.3 μM labeled M13 forward primer (LI-COR IRDye 700 or 800), 0.3 μM M13-tailed SSR forward primer (Invitrogen), 0.2 μM SSR reverse primer (Invitrogen), 1 unit of Taq polymerase (GIBCO/BRL), and 15 ng of genomic DNA. PCR was carried out in a PTC-200 thermocycler (MJ Research). The program used was the following: 4 min at 94°C, followed by 33 cycles of 50 sec at 94°C, 50 sec at annealing temperature (*T*_a), and 1 min at 72°C, then 4 min at 72°C as a final extension step. PCR products were separated by electrophoresis on a LI-COR 4300 DNA analyzer system. The molecular weight ladder was the LI-COR IRDye 50–350 bp size standard and was loaded into gel each eight samples.

SSR Allele Scoring. SSR alleles were detected and scored by using SAGA Generation 2 software (LI-COR). Size calibration and an SSR “smiling line” were performed by using the molecular weight ladder (LI-COR IRDye 50–350). The SSR alleles were determined for size in bp of the upper band of the allele and scored as present (1) or absent (0). Missing data were scored as “9.”

Data Analysis. Genetic analysis was performed by using the program DARwin (38). A dissimilarity matrix was calculated by using Jaccard’s coefficient, 60% of minimal proportion of valid data required for each unit pair, and 500 replicate bootstrapping. The dendrogram was built by using the NJ method, using the seven wild species accessions in the northern *S. brevicaulis* complex as outgroup. The NJ method developed by Saitou and Nei (39) estimates phylogenetic trees. Although based on the idea of parsimony (it does yield relatively short estimated evolutionary trees), the NJ method does not attempt to obtain the shortest possible tree for a set of data. Rather, it attempts to find a tree that is usually close to the true phylogenetic tree (40). This method allows the rooting of trees on outgroups (in this case, the seven accessions of the *S. brevicaulis* complex). The polymorphic information content (PIC) was calculated as $PIC = 1 - \sum(p_i^2)$, where p_i is the frequency of the *i*th allele detected in all accessions (41). Data of somatic chromosome counts for accessions of *S. phureja* were obtained from Ghislain *et al.* (19).

Plastid DNA Polymorphism Detection. The 241-bp deletion was analyzed for all 742 cultivated accessions by using the primers from ref. 23. PCR amplification was performed in a volume of 10 μl consisting of 18 ng of genomic DNA, 0.4 μM each of primers (Invitrogen), 1× PCR buffer (PerkinElmer), 2.5 mM MgCl₂ (PerkinElmer), 200 μM each dNTP (Amersham Biosciences), and 0.25 unit of Taq DNA polymerase (GIBCO/BRL). Thermal cycling was carried out in a PTC-200 thermocycler (MJ Research) (one cycle of 4 min at 94°C, followed by 40 cycles of 45 sec at 94°C, 45 sec at 59°C, and 45 sec at 72°C, then terminated with one cycle of 4 min at 72°C). PCR products were separated by electrophoresis in a 1% agarose gel, and lambda phage digested by PstI was used as a molecular weight marker. The 241-bp plastid polymorphism was determined for size in bp and scored as “T” (≈200 bp for deleted type) and “X” (≈440 bp for undeleted type).

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