

LETTERS

edited by Jennifer Sills

Retraction

IN OUR 2006 REPORT, “DESORPTION OF H FROM Si(111) BY RESONANT EXCITATION OF THE Si-H vibrational stretch mode” (1), we reported resonant photodesorption of hydrogen from a Si(111) surface using tunable infrared radiation that corresponded to the Si-H vibrational stretch mode. Our recent attempts to reproduce these experiments have been unsuccessful, and the free electron laser facility at Vanderbilt, a unique light source for this experiment, has shut down, prohibiting further research. Because our conclusions are now in question, we retract the Report.

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Reference

1. Z. Liu *et al.*, *Science* **312**, 1024 (2006).

Editor's Note

IN THE REVIEW “CHINA’S DEMOGRAPHIC history and future challenges” in the 29 July special section on Population (1), Fig. 1 showed a map of the South China Sea. We have become aware that some readers are interpreting the publication of this map as a statement by *Science* on the maritime borders marked in the image. This is not the case.

Science's policy, found on the masthead page of each issue, states that “all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.” *Science* does not have a position with regard to jurisdictional claims in the area of water included in the map. We are reviewing our map acceptance procedures to ensure that in the future *Science* does not appear

to endorse or take a position on territorial/jurisdictional disputes.

MONICA BRADFORD

Executive Editor

Reference

1. X. Peng, *Science* **333**, 581 (2011).

Tiger Conservation:
Trust Tradition

IN THEIR LETTER “RESTORING TIGERS TO THE Caspian region” (12 August, p. 822), C. A. Driscoll *et al.* propose the reintroduction of tigers into the historic range of the extinct Caspian tiger. Driscoll *et al.* assert that new approaches such as this one are needed because “traditional conservation approaches are proving insufficient.” We disagree.

Tiger biologists and conservationists have shown how to save tigers. So-called traditional approaches—including law enforcement, scientific assessments, monitoring of

tiger and prey populations, and community outreach—are demonstrably effective in reversing tiger declines when properly implemented by conservation nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies (1–6). New approaches should always be considered in our efforts to save the tiger, but the focus must be on addressing the most critical threats to those remaining tigers that survive in little more than four dozen source populations throughout their range (7). The immediate solution lies in convincing NGOs, conservationists, donor agencies, and government authorities to properly implement the proven best practices of tiger conservation: the traditional approaches. If we are considering reconstructive surgery for the tiger, then let's stop the bleeding first.

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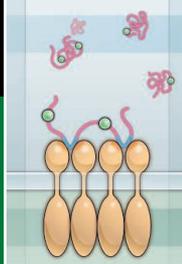
*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: arabinowitz@panthera.org

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2. E. N. Smirnov, D. G. Miquelle, *J. Wildlife Res.*, **1**, 3 (1999).
3. S. Simcharoen *et al.*, *Oryx* **41**, 4 (2007).
4. E. Dinerstein *et al.*, *BioScience* **57**, 6 (2007).
5. A. C. D. Barlow *et al.*, *Biol. Conserv.* **141**, 8 (2008).
6. J. Seidensticker *et al.*, in *Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids*, D. W. MacDonald, A. J. Loveridge, Eds. (Oxford Univ. Press, Oxford, 2010), pp. 305–325.
7. J. Walson *et al.*, *PLoS Biol.* **8**, 9 (2010).

The Ant Who Learned
to Be an Elephant

IN 1998, THE EUROPEAN AND DEVELOPING Countries Clinical Trials Partnership established regional networks of excellence in sub-Saharan Africa to strengthen research capacity for clinical trials on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and malaria (1). Through this program, the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University Marien Ngouabi of Brazzaville, like a poor, tiny Ant in an African tale, prepared to partner with a magnificent Elephant: the University of Tübingen in Germany.



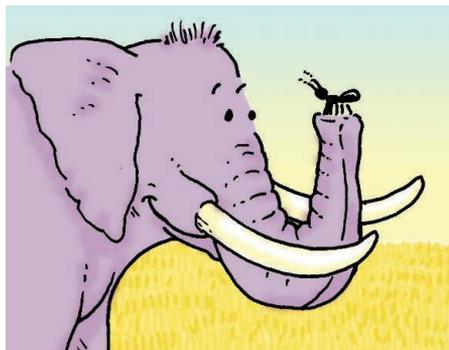
Stress sensor engagement

1830



SPORE Prize Essay

1838



The Elephant is beautiful, muscular, and respected by all the animals in the jungle. The Ant is small and ignored. Could an Ant possibly build a strong relationship with an Elephant? This Ant was going to try.

First, the Ant sought national authorization to conduct a clinical research project that would develop baseline studies and collect baseline data necessary for future clinical trials. After submitting the research protocol, the Ant waited 15 long months for approval by Congo's only Institutional Ethics Committee, and two more months for authorization from the Ministry of Health. A 17-month delay could compromise the rest of the project, thought the Ant with alarm. The work plan was often misunderstood, and as the Ant explained again and again how the money would be used to address specific challenges, she worried that the Elephant would move on and leave her behind.

The Ant realized that a good research team must be multidisciplinary, consisting of junior and seniors scientists selected by an experienced panel from a list of qualified applicants. This would be a challenge in a place with limited postgraduate academic opportunities. To overcome this limitation,

the Ant launched an open call for applications. The other animals in the jungle viewed the Ant's new approach with suspicion.

To invest in infrastructure, the Ant renovated an abandoned facility into the first molecular biology laboratory of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and then equipped it. Now the other animals started to appreciate the Ant's hard work. They congratulated her for the change and encouraged her to maintain the spirit.

To create a culture of research, the Ant had to be thoughtful and innovative. She stimulated scientific discussions by implementing regular scientific meetings. But how would she attract students and scientists to these meetings and foster interest and loyalty? The Ant formed brigades of students

to urge others to participate. A year later, the seminar room was always filled with an enthusiastic audience.

Once she had met these challenges, the Ant invited the Elephant to her home to share a cup of tea. She told him about all of her accomplishments, and showed him the new facilities. When the Elephant returned home, he was smiling and convinced. And he wondered, "What kind of Ant is this, this Ant who acts like an Elephant?"

It was just as the Ant had hoped. Next, the Ant hopes to sustain positive momentum and establish stable local research teams that will regularly publish in international scientific journals (2). The moral of the story: For young Congolese scientists wondering how to contribute scientifically to their country, the metamorphosis from tiny Ant to majestic Elephant is possible, but it will require time, cunning, and determination.

FRANCINE NTOUMI

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- 1. E. Dolgin, Nat. Med. 16, 8 (2010).
2. F. Ntoumi, G. Priebe, Malaria J. 9 (suppl. 3), S7 (2010).

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Editors' Choice: "Loud enough?" by J. S. Yeston (12 August, p. 803). Dalian's location should have been specified as Northeast, rather than Northwest, China.

News Focus: "Climate change sparks battles in classroom" by S. Reardon (5 August, p. 688). The credit for the second image (bottom of page 688) was incorrect. The correct credit is Morgan Heim, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. The credit has been corrected in the HTML version online.

Reports: "The plant cell wall-decomposing machinery underlies the functional diversity of forest fungi" by D. C. Eastwood et al. (5 August, p. 762). The second sentence of the caption for Fig. 2C should read, "Black trace, nitrogen-rich medium (+N); red trace, nitrogen-depleted minimal medium (-N)."

Perspectives: "Sentence and word complexity" by J. Heinz and W. Idsardi (15 July, p. 295). Due to a production error, the inner region in the figure was mislabeled "Context-sensitive." It should read "Context-free."

TECHNICAL COMMENT ABSTRACTS

Comment on "The Response of Vegetation on the Andean Flank in Western Amazonia to Pleistocene Climate Change"

Surangi W. Punyasena, James W. Dalling, Carlos Jaramillo, Benjamin L. Turner

Cárdenas et al. (Reports, 25 February 2011, p. 1055) used the presence of Podocarpus pollen and wood to infer >=5°C cooling of Andean forests during Quaternary glacial periods. We show that (i) Podocarpus has a wide elevation range in the Neotropics and (ii) edaphic factors cannot be discounted as a factor governing its distribution. Paleocologists should therefore reevaluate Podocarpus as a cool-temperature proxy.

Full text at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/333/6051/1825-b

Response to Comment on "The Response of Vegetation on the Andean Flank in Western Amazonia to Pleistocene Climate Change"

Macarena L. Cárdenas, William D. Gosling, Sarah C. Sherlock, Imogen Poole, R. Toby Pennington, Patricia Mothes

Punyasena et al. question our interpretation of climate-driven vegetation change on the Andean flank in western Amazonia during the middle Pleistocene and suggest that the use of Podocarpus spp. as a proxy of past climate change should be reassessed. We defend our assertion that vegetation change at the Erazo study site was predominantly driven by climate change due to concomitant changes recorded by multiple taxa in the fossil record.

Full text at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/333/6051/1825-c

Letters to the Editor

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